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British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1878-79

Colonies General

19

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

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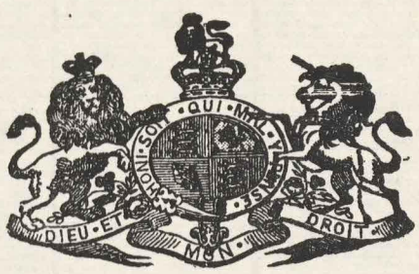
RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1877.

(*In continuation of* [C.-2149.] 1878.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1879.



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No. 1.

His Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Marlborough House, Pall Mall, S.W.,
December 9, 1878.

SIR,

THE labours of the International Juries of the Paris Universal Exhibition having been completed, and the Exhibition brought to a close, I desire to bring under your notice the action taken by the various Colonial Governments in response to the invitation forwarded to them to take part in the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878.

Notwithstanding the numerous calls made upon the British Colonies of late years to take part in the various International Exhibitions, the amount of zeal and energy that have been shown in their response on this occasion has not been previously equalled and is highly gratifying to notice.

Influential local commissions were appointed by the representatives of Her Majesty in the several Colonies; the necessary funds were liberally voted by the respective Legislatures, and administrative and executive commissioners appointed to select and arrange contributions that should be worthy of the occasion and to carry out their other responsible duties.

The success of the general and individual efforts thus made is shown in the satisfactory results of the collective exhibits arranged by the Colonies.

The aggregate expenditure of the Colonial Commissions that has been provided for by the sums voted by the various Legislatures and Crown Colonies is estimated at 80,000*l*.

The demands made for space on the part of the Colonies, especially the Dominion of Canada and Australia, were so large that great difficulty was found in providing for them, and ultimately a part of the Grand Vestibule, in addition to the dome, which was the post of honour allotted to the Indian Empire, was ceded to some of the smaller Colonies.

The arrangements of the Dominion of Canada, which included all Her Majesty's possessions on the American continent, were carried out by Mr. Thomas Keefer, C.E., C.M.G., on a scale far surpassing any previous representation of British America.

The cases and fittings of native woods were most effective and striking, as were the enormous sections of Douglas pines sent from British Columbia. The woods and minerals, the products of the fisheries, of agriculture, and of manufacturing industry so successfully arranged by Mr. Selwyn, Director of the Geological Survey, were of a very important character, and received high awards from the juries. The Educational Department under the skilful superintendence of Dr. May and Mr. W. E. Archambault was particularly well represented and gained two diplomas of

honour and six gold medals, and the Ministers of Public Works and of Agriculture were also honoured with diplomas and gold medals.

The African Colonies were represented by the Cape of Good Hope, under the management of Mr. Spencer Todd, C.M.G., and by Lagos, under Mr. Arthur H. Porter.

The unsettled position of affairs in the Colony operated unfavourably upon the South African Exhibition, and prevented the Colonial Government from devoting to it as large a parliamentary grant as would have been necessary to secure a really perfect display of the resources of this Colony and of the great progress it has made since the date of the last Paris Exhibition.

Samples of almost every South African product were, however, shown. Three exhibitors of wines gained gold medals. Wool, mohair, angora hair, hides, and leather were represented by small but well chosen specimens, and the only undressed ostrich feathers to be found in the Exhibition were in the court of the Cape Colony, illustrating an industry which has developed in a most remarkable manner of recent years.

Carefully selected specimens of the diamonds found in the mines of Griqualand Land West were also exhibited, and the mineral wealth of South Africa was well represented by a beautiful nugget of Transvaal gold, by coal from Queenstown, copper ore from Namaqualand, manganese ore from Wellington, and cobalt ore from the Transvaal.

The educational class was also well filled with maps, drawings, specimens of printing, and bookbinding and interesting ethnological studies.

Perhaps one of the most striking exhibits from the Colonies was the representation made by Her Majesty's dependencies at the Antipodes. Australia and New Zealand have advanced with great strides since the last Exhibition in Paris. These provinces of the Empire, with a population of over two and a half millions, have an external commerce exceeding ninety millions a year, the greater part of which is with Great Britain and her dependencies. It is not, therefore, surprising that the enterprise of these Colonies should have brought them prominently forward at this International Competition, and that each made a creditable display of its own products and industry.

New South Wales, the oldest Australian Colony, exhibited the magnitude of her natural resources in her splendid display of wool, for which she gained a Grand Prix; in her display of coal with which she supplies the countries of the Pacific; for her scientific display of mineralogical and natural history collections by Professor Liversedge, and for the excellence of her varied branches of manufactures. The Hon. Edward Combes, M.P., C.M.G., late Minister for Public Works, the Executive Commissioner for New South Wales, remained in continuous care of the exhibits of this important Colony during the whole period of the exhibition.

The energy and industry of the colonists of Victoria is remarkably shown by the great number and varied character of her

exhibits. Representations of the enormous wealth attained through her gold discoveries are only evidences of the future riches which will accrue to her from the encouragement of her industrial resources. Wools, woollen fabrics, silk, wines, carriages, preserved meats and provisions, and almost every branch of industry was here represented.

The Hon. J. J. Casey, M.P., C.M.G., President of the Victoria Commission, superintended the arrangement of the collections sent from his Colony until his return to Victoria, after which his duties were performed by Mr. G. Collins Levey, C.M.G., the Secretary to the Commission.

The great natural resources of South Australia are shown by her exhibits of wheat, wool, gold, copper, wine, and oil. South Australia, as on some former occasions, received the highest award for her magnificent collection of wheat and a gold medal for flour—the granary of Australia. She also furnishes to the mother country some of the finest description of grain. For her merino wool, amongst other prizes, a gold medal was awarded. The exhibits of gold and of native and manufactured copper attracted considerable attention and received suitable awards, whilst the wines and oils shown give promise of a rich reward to capitalists and labour.

Mr. Josiah Boothby, C.M.G., Under Secretary to the Government of South Australia, ably represented the Colony throughout.

Queensland has shown the variety and magnitude of her resources in a display of wool, sugar, minerals, pearl shell, and other articles—indigenous produce, which secured a large number of awards.

Queensland was represented by Mr. A. Macalister, C.M.G., Chairman of the Commission, the Agent-General in London, and by Mr. A. Hodgson, C.M.G.

Western Australia exhibited a small collection of general products, but was exceedingly important in its splendid exhibit of jarrah-jarrah and other forest timber, not surpassed for its imperishable qualities, and which is obtainable in great abundance. The exhibits of this Colony were placed under the charge of the Secretary of the Royal Commission.

New Zealand, represented by Mr. T. P. Russell, sent only a small collection.

The International Juries have placed on record the merits of the above-mentioned Colonial exhibitions by the number and importance of the medals and honorary rewards voted, which far exceed those granted at any previous Exhibition.

The youngest of our British possessions, the Fiji Islands, was awarded several gold medals for the quality of its cotton.

Of the Eastern Colonies, Ceylon sent the finest collection of produce, native manufactures, and jewellery ever yet exhibited. These were arranged by Sir Charles P. Layard, K.C.M.G.

The Straits Settlements, for the first time since their establishment as a separate Colonial Government, made an interesting representative collection.

Mauritius, with its dependencies the Seychelles Islands, re-

presented by Mr. Gustave Adam, Mr. Alphonse Lucas, and Mr. Edward Elias, obtained relatively the highest awards in general, and *especially* for the article upon which the industry of their populations is concentrated, and the only grand prize awarded to cane sugars was won by Mauritius, in addition to five gold medals for the same produce, and a gold medal for vanilla.

The only West India Colonies which took part in the Exhibition were Jamaica, British Guiana, and Trinidad. The principal products shown were sugar, rum, coffee, and specimens of woods Each of these Colonies gained a considerable number of medals, indicating a fair average of excellence.

British Guiana was represented by Mr. William Walker, and Trinidad by Dr. J. Court.

These exhibits from Western Australia, Jamaica, the Straits Settlements, and Seychelles, with British Guiana, Trinidad, and Lagos, were placed under the charge of Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, as Secretary of the Royal Commission. He has been mainly assisted by Captain Harris, Royal Engineers, whose valuable and efficient services to the Colonies generally Sir Philip has never failed to bring specially under my notice; whilst for the technical arrangements and immediate superintendence of the collection from these above-mentioned Colonies, Mr. P. L. Simmonds was well qualified by his official services at previous Exhibitions, and his thorough knowledge of Colonial products, to bring these collections prominently before the International Juries.

Nearly all the Colonies published and circulated valuable descriptive catalogues, which afforded most useful information to visitors, and these were freely distributed with many other Colonial publications of scientific or popular character.

Considering that the number of exhibitors was more limited, the Colonies have carried away a larger proportion of medals than the mother country.

Taking advantage of the presence in Paris of a number of gentlemen qualified by their personal experience to judge Colonial produce, I secured the services of the following Colonial Commissioners upon the International Juries :—

Mr. Thomas C. Keefer, C.E., C.M.G.	The Dominion.
Dr. S. P. May	
Mr. Alfred Selwyn, F.R.S., F.G.S.	
Mr. W. E. Archambault	
The Hon. Edward Combes, C.M.G.	New South Wales.
Professor Liversedge	
Mr. G. Collins Levey, C.M.G.	Victoria.
Mr. Josiah Boothby, C.M.G.	South Australia.
Mr. Gustave Adam	Mauritius.
Mr. Alphonse Lucas	
Mr. Edward Elias	
Mr. Spencer Todd, C.M.G.	Cape of Good Hope.

I am further glad to acknowledge the valuable services upon the jury of Mr. Colville Barclay, C.M.G., a well known officer in the Colonial service.

These gentlemen at the same time gave valuable assistance to the juries of their respective classes, were watchful for the interests of the several Colonies that they represented, and no less careful for the interests of the exhibitors from the mother country.

In conclusion, I desire to bring under your notice the copy of an address from the Executive Commissioners of the Colonies which I had the pleasure of receiving at the British Embassy during my last stay in Paris. In the copy of my reply you will observe that I have expressed my satisfaction at the proposed formation of a Colonial museum, and my readiness to co-operate in any scheme which may have received the mature consideration of the respective Colonies.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) ALBERT EDWARD, P.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION, 1878.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., President of the Royal Commission for the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878, received on Thursday the 24th October 1878, at the British Embassy, Paris, a deputation of Colonial Commissioners. The following Members of the Royal Commission were present:— His Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, the Right Honourable Lord Lyons, G.C.B., Lord Tenterden, K.C.B., Sir John Rose, K.C.M.G., Sir Joseph Hooker, K.C.S.I., C.B., Colonel Ellis, C.S.I., Mr. Sampson Lloyd, M.P.; and the Secretary of the Royal Commission. Captain Harris, Royal Engineers, and Mr. Purdon Clarke were also present. The Colonial Commissioners were Mr. T. C. Keefer, C.E., Dr. S. P. May, and Mr. A. R. C. Selwyn (Canada), Dr. J. Court (Trinidad), Mr. Spencer Todd (Cape of Good Hope), Sir Charles P. Layard, K.C.M.G. (Ceylon), Mr. Gustave Adam (Mauritius), the Hon. Edward Combes, M.P., and Mr. Jules Joubert (New South Wales), Mr. Collins Levey (Victoria), Mr. Arthur Hodgson (Queensland), Mr. Josiah Boothby, Sir W. W. Cairns, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Nowell Twopeny (South Australia), and Mr. Purvis Russell (New Zealand). The following address was presented to His Royal Highness:—

"To His Royal Highness ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES and DUKE OF CORNWALL, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.S.I., &c.

"The Commissioners representing the British Colonies that have participated in this year's Paris Universal Exhibition are so deeply sensible of the benefits derived from the active personal interest which your Royal Highness has been, as President of the Royal British Commission, graciously pleased to show in furthering every effort made to secure on this great occasion a worthy representation of the arts and manufactures and products of every part of Her most Gracious Majesty's widespread Empire

that they would not willingly separate without offering to Your Royal Highness an expression of their heartfelt gratitude. The prominent part so efficiently taken by one in Your Royal Highness's exalted position has sufficed to overcome many difficulties. Inspiring perfect confidence, it has produced unity of action, it has stimulated zeal, and created in all an anxious desire to follow loyally and worthily where Your Royal Highness led. To us it has been a fresh proof of the solicitous regard entertained by our beloved Sovereign and by the people of the mother country for all that concerns the welfare and progress of the colonists. Colonists everywhere value and cherish these feelings. They desire to strengthen and perpetuate them, and seek the means of fostering the ties of interest and sympathy that bind them to Great Britain. We believe that the erection of a permanent Colonial museum in London, where the products and manufactures of Her Majesty's more distant possessions might at all times be on view, would diffuse throughout the mother country a better knowledge of the nature and importance of the resources of the several dependencies of the Empire, would facilitate commercial relations, and aid the researches of men of science. It would assist in marking the progress achieved from time to time, and afford valuable information to intending emigrants. We, therefore, venture to approach Your Royal Highness with the earnest prayer that Your Royal Highness may be pleased to further the movement by giving to it your personal interest and co-operation. The nucleus of such a collection as is contemplated might at once be commenced with articles now in Paris, and we beg of Your Royal Highness to prevent their dispersion by using your influence to secure at least temporary accommodation for their exhibition in London until further steps can be taken. We also take this opportunity of expressing our obligations to Your Royal Highness for having granted us the assistance of the Secretary of the Royal British Commission, Mr. Cunliffe-Owen, C.B., whose unwearied attention to the interests of Colonial exhibitors has, no doubt, contributed to realise Your Royal Highness's wishes on our behalf.

"We have the honour to be,

"Sir,

"Your Royal Highness's most obedient and

"humble servants,

"T. C. KEEFER, Canada.
C. P. LAYARD, Ceylon.
SPENCER TODD, Cape of Good Hope.
G. ADAM, Mauritius.
W. WALKER, British Guiana.
J. COURT, Trinidad.
ED. COMBES, New South Wales.
G. C. LEVEY, Victoria.
J. BOOTHBY, South Australia.
ARTHUR HODGSON, Queensland.
PURVIS RUSSELL, New Zealand."

His Royal Highness then replied as follows:—

"MR. KEEFER AND GENTLEMEN,

"I RECEIVE with great satisfaction the address you have presented to me on behalf of your respective Colonies. In your loyal mention of Her Majesty the Queen is expressed that sentiment which is felt by every subject of the Sovereign, and nowhere more devotedly than in Her Colonial dominions. I avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my warm acknowledgments to the Governments of the colonies you represent for the cordiality with which they acted on my invitation, as President of the Royal Commission, to participate in the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1878, and my thanks are no less due to you and to your fellow Commissioners for the hearty and efficient co-operation afforded during its progress. The remarkable display of Colonial produce and manufactures cannot but have impressed all who have witnessed it with the rapid progress which the different Colonies have made, and with the great future which awaits them. But while the Colonial courts are a fitting illustration of the enterprise and advancement which exists in the outlying portions of Her Majesty's dominions, even higher results will flow from your participation in the Paris Exhibition. It has given the Colonies opportunities of becoming better acquainted with one another—opportunities of which you and your colleagues have made such worthy use; it has brought more prominently under each other's notice your varied products and resources; and, above all, it has tended to promote unity of Colonial feeling, and to strengthen those ties of loyal affection that now so happily knit together all portions of Her Majesty's dominions. I most heartily thank you for the share you attribute to me in achieving the measure of success we have together attained, notwithstanding the many difficulties which have beset so vast an enterprise. I am equally gratified at your appreciation of the service of the Secretary, Mr. P. Cunliffe Owen, to whose efforts, and those of the able and zealous staff engaged with him, we all owe so much. I agree with you in thinking that many advantages would flow from the establishment in London of a museum displaying in an adequate manner the varied and rich products of the Colonies. The practicability, however, and the mode of carrying into effect such a scheme must necessarily require mature deliberation on the part of your respective Governments, and its success must depend upon their readiness to provide means to found and support it. But, wishing to promote an idea containing so much to recommend it, and presented to me by my fellow-workers in the Exhibition, it will give me pleasure in the meantime to apply to the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 to place at your disposal the space requisite for the preservation during the ensuing year of such goods as you may desire to retain as a nucleus for a permanent collection. During this interval time will be afforded to your Governments for the necessary consideration of the scheme; and meanwhile I can but assure you of the warm interest with

which I shall continue to regard every proposal tending to knit more closely the Colonies with each other and the Empire at large."

The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G.

Sir, Downing Street, December 27, 1878.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, dated the 9th instant, which your Royal Highness was pleased to address to me with reference to the part taken by the British Colonies in the Paris Exhibition.

2. The hearty response of the Colonial Governments to your Royal Highness's invitation to them to take part in the Exhibition, the able and zealous co-operation of their representatives, and the distinguished success of the Colonial representation have afforded me the greatest satisfaction.

3. I am very sensible of the great advantage to the Colonies of your Royal Highness's active and friendly attention to their interests at the Exhibition, and I have already received from gentlemen connected with the Colonies, officially and otherwise, warm expressions of gratitude for the trouble taken by your Royal Highness on their behalf, and I am confident that the Colonial Governments feel deeply indebted to your Royal Highness for the valuable services which you have rendered to them.

4. I feel sure that the ready assistance and co-operation given at all times by Sir P. C. Owen and the members of his staff are also fully appreciated by the exhibitors and official representatives of the Colonies.

5. With reference to the proposed Colonial museum in London referred to in the address from the Executive Commissioners of the Colonies to your Royal Highness, I have the honour to state that I shall be ready to co-operate on the part of the Crown Colonies, so far as their means will permit, on learning that the important Colonies enjoying responsible government are prepared to deal with the suggestion made by the gentlemen in Paris, in a manner which would appear to me to promise success.

6. I shall have much pleasure in transmitting a copy of this correspondence to the Governors of all the Colonies, and in including it among the papers to be presented to Parliament in relation to Her Majesty's Colonial possessions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. E. Hicks Beach.

The Right Hon. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart., to the GOVERNORS of all the COLONIES.

SIR, Downing Street, December 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales relative to the part taken by certain of Her Majesty's Colonies in the Paris Exhibition, together with a copy of the letter which I have addressed to His Royal Highness in reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. E. HICKS BEACH.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 2.

Governor Sir JOHN H. GLOVER, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Government House, January 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" for 1877, together with a short report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1877.

1. *Finance.*

The total revenue amounted to $905,142 as against $983,530 for the preceding year, but the latter sum includes a loan of $60,000 raised for special purposes, and a sum of $23,438 from the Imperial Exchequer for the establishment of a fog alarm signal at Cape Race.

The expenditure for the year 1877 amounted to $970,805, showing a decrease of expenditure of over $1,800 on that of the previous year.

The amount of Customs duties collected amounted to $833,068 being upwards of $25,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1876.

2. *Trade.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The trade statistics for 1877 are slightly less favourable than those of the previous year, the exports exhibiting a decrease of over $500,000. This is chiefly due to a fall of about one-sixth in the value of cod fish, and to a rather less successful fishery. The returns point to the fact that while the take of our in-shore fisheries has for some years past been slightly diminishing, the catch of the boats which have gone north to look for their fish, has been more ample and certain the farther they went.

The seal fishery was an average one, the season having opened with unusually good prospects, owing to the mild open weather. There was an increase in the number of steamers employed, two of the Greenland whaling fleet having fitted out from St. John's, and the result of the venture has been such as to give considerable impetus to this hazardous and speculative enterprize.

3. *Mines and Manufactures.*

The mining prospects of Newfoundland are in every way encouraging, and amply compensate for the slight depression in the staple industries. The export of copper was nearly doubled, the amount being 47,454 tons valued at 237,270*l.* as against 25,135 tons valued at 125,675*l.* in 1876. The mining operations are being rapidly extended, and the certain indications of large mineral deposits render the future of this Colony assured as the most important supplier of the market. Already, about one-sixth of the copper in the English market is exported from Newfoundland, and the amount is rapidly increasing, while that supplied from other sources is steadily decreasing. The very great benefit derived from sure and lucrative employment being afforded by the mines is already being felt by the people, and is invaluable in supplying the means of meeting the distress so often attendant on the enforced idleness of many of our fishing population during the long winter.

The success which has attended the establishment of the numerous factories in St. John's is leading to the introduction of fresh industries of this kind, among the more important of which may be mentioned a tobacco factory, affording regular employment to upwards of 100 persons, of whom three-fourths are women.

4. *Miscellaneous.*

There were 142 ships of 5,384 tons built in the Colony in 1877 against 100 of 4,079 tons in the previous year; the very remarkable aptitude of the people for this work, which was noticed in the report on last year's Blue Book, is thus largely developing itself, there being many instances in which schooners of 40 to 50 tons, and even upwards, have been built by one man with no assistance but that given by young sons.

The connexion of the mining districts with the capital by telegraph was commenced in 1877, and a new telegraph line was also opened to Cape Bonavista, which will be of great use in

reporting passing vessels, and also the approach of ice from the northward, which largely affects the prospects of the seal fishery. NEWFOUNDLAND.

The appointment of a magistrate to reside at Bay of Islands also brings within reach a large portion of the Island hitherto but little known, and which seems peculiarly adapted to agricultural industries, the success of which is very much to be desired as a means of drawing the attention of the people to the importance and necessity of these occupations. During the last winter considerable privations were felt by the fishing population on parts of the southern coast, owing to the insufficient yield of the fisheries, and it is a noticeable fact that the district of Placentia, where the want appeared most pressing, lies in a well-watered and fertile valley, which affords every advantage for the cultivation of the soil.

(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 3.

Governor Sir ROBERT LAFFAN, R.E., K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Mount Langton, Bermuda,
October 30, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for Bermuda for the year 1877. This Blue Book had been got ready at the usual time by the Colonial Secretary and the Receiver-General, but as I had myself then only recently arrived in these Islands, I thought it better to defer forwarding it till I should have had an opportunity of making myself better acquainted with the circumstances of the Colony upon which I was called on to report. I now send forward the Blue Book with the following remarks:—

2. The year 1877 may be said upon the whole to have been a prosperous year for Bermuda, but nevertheless it did not pass away without giving some signs and warnings that the prosperity of these Islands rested upon a somewhat uncertain foundation.

3. Till quite lately the population of Bermuda had for many generations been a purely commercial community, neglecting agriculture altogether, and devoting themselves entirely to ship building and maritime commerce. Within the memory of the present generation Bermuda possessed a merchant fleet of upwards of 100 ships, and the Colony had become a flourishing

BERMUDA.

entrepôt for the extensive commerce that was carried on between the West Indian Islands, the British possessions of North America, and the United States.

4. But within the life of the present generation this prosperous condition of commerce has been entirely altered. Bermuda has ceased to build any ships, and from upwards of 100 sail her merchant fleet has dwindled away to four or five, the carrying trade has disappeared, and the Colony has ceased to be an entrepôt altogether. The British Colonies of America now build all the ships that are required for their own trade, and every year send a number abroad for sale at prices that render competition from Bermuda entirely hopeless, and, in addition to this, the general substitution of steamers for sailing vessels, has, in a great measure, superseded the use of the small brigantines and schooners in the construction of which the Bermudians excelled. The trade of these Islands is now entirely confined to furnishing the supplies required for the use of the army and navy and meeting the moderate wants and disposing of the agricultural produce of the local community.

5. The total loss of their ship building and carrying trade was severely felt by the inhabitants of Bermuda, and would have been followed by a period of great and general distress had not a new source of profitable industry been discovered in the Island just as the old occupations were about to be withdrawn. An able Governor, Sir William Reed, directed the attention of the inhabitants to agricultural pursuits, telling them that as they could no longer hope to plough the seas profitably with their keels they must learn to plough their fields with the ploughshare, and the inhabitants very wisely followed his advice. Agricultural implements were introduced from New York, seeds were obtained from various parts of the world, and gradually the Bermudians from being a seafaring became a comparatively prosperous agricultural community.

Agriculture.

6. At first sight few experiments could have seemed more unpromising than that of converting Bermuda into an agricultural Colony. The Islands are nothing more than collections of sand hills thrown up by the sea and formed by the prevalent winds into long ridges and rounded hills between which are enclosed a number of small valleys. The fine sands, of which these long ridges and hills had been formed, being, however, almost entirely made up of minute fragments of corals and broken shells, composed in a great measure of lime, were gradually decomposed by the combined action of rain and winds and sunshine, and became conglomerated into a soft friable white limestone, in appearance somewhat resembling chalk, and in this way the sand hills of Bermuda became gradually consolidated. This process of the formation of rock from sands thrown up by the sea, carried onward by the prevailing wind, and then being decomposed and conglomerated into stone, may be seen still going on at a spot

called the Sandhills, situated on the south shore. The fine white sand may there be seen slowly invading and filling up a valley, and a horseman may now ride on a broad elevated plateau of sand through which rises, only a few feet above the surface, the chimney of a buried dwelling that was inhabited within the memory of the present generation, but now lies buried with its garden under some 25 feet of sand.

7. The long ridges and rounded hills thus formed, as it were from the sea, could not have remained long above water before they became clothed with verdure; the white mounds rising from the sea would naturally become the resting place of migratory birds who would bring with them the seeds and germs of the neighbouring continent. The Bermudian Cedar which is nearly akin to the Virginian tree of that name, and whose seed is a favourite food with birds and with animals, was probably introduced in this way, and finding a congenial habitat soon spread over the Islands, taking root and thriving in every fissure of the rock, and flourishing to such a degree that at the time of the discovery of Bermuda it formed an unbroken forest which covered the land from end to end.

8. These cedars shed an abundance of small thick leaves which rapidly decompose and cover the surface and fill up all the crevices of the rock with decayed vegetation, and this again being washed away from time to time by the heavy rains is carried down into the hollows and combining there with other decayed vegetable matter, and the sand and other scourings of the hills forms a light, sandy, vegetable mould which fills the valleys to a depth varying from a few inches to several feet and forms an agricultural soil which is found to possess considerable fertility.

9. From this brief description it will be seen that the extent of ground capable of cultivation in Bermuda must necessarily be very limited. The whole area of the Islands amounts to about 12,000 acres, and of these not more than 1,000 acres can be considered to be good land. Another 1,000 may be considered fair, and a third 1,000 may be classed as of poor quality, but still capable of being cultivated with moderate profit; the remaining 9,000 acres are made up of rough, thinly wooded, stony hills, with occasional openings of scanty natural pastures and marshes that at present are incapable of cultivation.

10. With such a very limited area of fertile ground, and with the additional disadvantage of being far removed from any large market, it is evident that Bermuda must be unable to compete with the neighbouring continent of America in the production of ordinary agricultural produce. In the United States and in the British Colonies of North America good land is abundant and cheap, and labour, though highly remunerative, is still less expensive than it is in Bermuda, and every kind of agricultural produce can therefore be raised in its proper season in America more abundantly and more cheaply than in these Islands.

11. But Bermuda possesses in its climate an advantage which being now rightly understood and turned to the best account by

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its inhabitants gives them a monopoly of the American markets for certain classes of agricultural produce during a few of the early months of every year.

12. The Bermudas have scarcely any winter, and their springs are generally early and mild, whereas the winters of all the Eastern States of the Union and of the British Colonies of North America are severe and protracted, and they have scarcely any spring, and owing to this cause Bermuda is able to supply the eastern towns of America with large quantities of potatoes and onions and tomatoes and beet root and other vegetable produce during the months of April and May, when the American agriculturalists have as yet scarcely succeeded in getting their seed into the ground; and in this way it has come about that during the months of April and May and the first week of June the Bermudians find a ready market for their vegetables at New York, and indeed in all the eastern towns of America, at prices that are highly remunerative. During three months of the past year 27,000 barrels of early potatoes and 112,000 boxes of onions and 110,000 boxes of tomatoes were shipped to America, and realised there upwards of 70,000*l.*

13. The value of the Bermudian produce in America depends, however, entirely upon the date of its arrival there; a barrel of Bermudian potatoes landed at New York in the first week of April will sell there readily for 40*s.*; by the first week of May that value will have fallen to 25*s.*, and by the first week of June it will be as low as 12*s.* In July Bermudian potatoes are unsaleable in America as the native potatoes have by that time come in and entirely superseded them. In August the American new potatoes are sold at New York for 6*s.* a barrel, a price that would scarcely suffice to pay a Bermudian grower the cost of conveyance to market, with agents' expenses and American import duty.

14. From this brief review of Bermudian agriculture it will be seen that the prosperity of the agricultural classes in these Islands depends almost entirely upon the prices their produce realise in New York; and unfortunately those prices are ruled to a considerable extent by several circumstances over which the Bermudians can exercise no control. The prices depend in the first place upon the early date at which the Island produce can be brought to market, and in the second place upon the lateness of the arrival at market of the corresponding American produce. A mild winter and an early and dry spring in Bermuda, coinciding with a severe and protracted winter in the United States, will create high prices in Now York and a prosperous year for Bermuda; whereas a cold wet winter and a late spring in Bermuda, accompanied by an open winter and an early spring in America will produce low prices for Bermudian produce, and an unfavourable year for the Bermudian planters.

15. There is another circumstance which materially affects the prices realised for Bermudian produce, and it is one over which

the Bermudians can exercise even less control than they can exert over the seasons; it is this, that early spring vegetables are not necessaries but luxuries, and that like all luxuries they are indulged in during prosperous times but are abstained from in times of pecuniary embarrassment or difficulty. So long as trade flourishes in America, and the industrial classes, who form the great majority of the population of her great towns, find abundant employment at remunerative wages, so long will there always be, every spring, an eager demand for the early vegetables of Bermuda, and so long will the latter realise prices that will amply repay the cost of production and conveyance to market; but during times of commercial crisis and suspension of manufacture in America there will no longer be the same purchasing power in the working classes of the American cities with which to procure the Bermudian delicacies, and during such periods of commercial depression in America, the prices of Bermudian produce may always be expected to fall.

16. For several years prior to 1877 the commercial cities and manufacturing towns of America had enjoyed a full tide of prosperity, and the inhabitants had bought up eagerly, at high prices, all the early produce that Bermuda could send to them; but in 1877 this tide of prosperity received a severe check, which came too late fortunately to affect the prices of Bermudian produce of that year, but which, having been brought about by deep seated causes, threatens to be prolonged and to affect very seriously the prices of Bermudian produce in future years.

Exports.

17. The exports of Bermuda consist almost entirely of agricultural products, early spring vegetables and arrowroot. The production of the latter is declining. The Bermudian arrowroot is still the best in the World, but immense quantities of arrowroot of an inferior kind are produced and sold at a low price in Natal, and in the West Indies, and the sale of this inferior article checks the demand for the superior Bermudian produce; every acre of land, however, that is withdrawn from the culture of arrowroot is immediately devoted to the cultivation of other agricultural produce, and the interests of the Colony do not, therefore, suffer from this cause. The export of arrowroot has fallen, during the last 10 years, from 28 to 17 tons, but the average export of potatoes has increased from 10,000 tons to 30,000 tons, that of onions from 60,000 boxes to 160,000, and that of tomatoes from 35,000 boxes to 110,000. The total value of the produce exported last year was 74,981*l.*

Imports.

18. The imports of Bermuda far exceed in value the exports. Last year they amounted to 279,860*l.*, exceeding the exports by

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upwards of 200,000. The expenditure of the Imperial Government for naval and military services amounts on an average to about 200,000*l.* a year, and is provided generally by an importation of gold coin to the extent of about 80,000*l.*, and by Treasury bills on England for about 120,000*l.* The military garrison, and the navy, and the civil population of Bermuda are all alike almost entirely dependent for their food upon supplies obtained from abroad. Bermuda imports from the United States her oxen and cows, horses and sheep, hay, oats and corn, flour and biscuit, butter and cheese, groceries, and provisions. From Great Britain she receives woollen and cotton goods, wine, spirits, malt liquor, and manufactured articles. Speaking generally the Colony may be said to be dependent upon America for its food, and upon England for its comforts and luxuries.

19. The commercial intercourse of the Islands with the United States of America is increasing yearly in extent and importance. Bermuda sends there nine-tenths of its produce, and takes from thence two-thirds of the total amount of its imports, including nearly the whole of its food.

Revenue and Expenditure.

20. The revenue of the Colony for 1877 amounted to 30,353*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, but that amount included a sum of 2,001*l.* 1*s.* raised by debentures issued to pay off savings bank depositors. The Island revenue is almost entirely raised from customs duties. The duty on spirits was raised in 1846 from 3*s.* a gallon to 4*s.*, and the duty on malt liquor from 15*s.* a hogshead to 20*s.*, but as the spirits and malt liquor then in bond were exempted from payment of the additional duty, the increase of taxation did not immediately improve the revenue. Last year, however, the higher duties came into more general operation, and the result was that from spirits and malt liquor the Colony derived a revenue of 12,740*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of 20 per cent. over the corresponding receipts of 1876. The general ad valorem duties produced 10,526*l.*, being an increase of 13 per cent. over the preceding year. The expenditure for 1877 amounted to 26,563*l.*, being considerably below the revenue. These figures seem to show that the Colony is in a prosperous condition.

Population.

21. The population of Bermuda was estimated at the end of last year at about 13,600 souls, of whom about 40 per cent. were of white, and about 60 per cent. of coloured race. Every succeeding year brings more strongly into light the fact that the coloured race is increasing in numbers far more rapidly than the whites, only one generation back the numbers were nearly equal, whereas now the coloured people exceed the whites in number by 50 per cent. This effect may partly be ascribed to a strong tendency among the whites, and especially among the young men of the better classes, to emigrate and seek abroad for a larger field for their energies than they can find at home, but it may

also, I think in some measure, be ascribed to the comparative improvidence of the coloured people, and the consequent facility with which they contract marriage.

22. The great disproportion between the sexes in Bermuda is very remarkable, and is nearly the same in both races, the males only amounting in each case to about 44 per cent., whereas the females number 56 per cent. of the whole population. Among the whites this effect is probably due to the young men of the better classes seeking a more remunerative field for their exertions in distant countries, and especially in the United States. Among the coloured races the disproportion may be ascribed to the males betaking themselves to hazardous occupation as pilots and boatmen, sailors, and fishermen.

23. The industrial habits of the poorer classes seem to have been injuriously affected by the uncertain and desultory nature of their occupations. The loss of the ship building trade and of all the industrial occupations connected with it, coupled with that of the great carrying and entrepôt trade, left for the labouring classes scarcely any other regular occupation than that of agricultural labourer, and unfortunately the work of an agricultural labourer in Bermuda is by no means continuous. Labour in the fields in Bermuda is, as a rule, confined to a few months only of each year, to certain short periods in the autumn when the fields are cleared of weeds and the crops are sown, during the winter when they are cleaned and weeded, and in the spring when the crops are gathered and prepared for shipment, during the latter weeks of spring and throughout the long months of summer and the early part of the autumn the fields of Bermuda are left for the most part to lie idle or grow huge crops of weeds which are pulled up in the autumn, and burnt to manure the ground. It is not to be supposed from this that fair crops of one kind or another might not be raised from the fields during the summer season, but any crops that could then be raised, could, as a general rule, be imported so much more cheaply from America, that it would not pay any Bermudian proprietor to produce them. The Bermudian cultivator has a practical monopoly of the American markets for his peculiar produce during the months of April and May, and part of June, but during the remainder of the year the American agriculturist can undersell the Bermudian in his own Islands.

Immigration.

24. It seems a natural consequence of this variability in the demand for agricultural labour, that the labour when obtained should not always be of the best description. Great complaints are made by proprietors that they cannot obtain agricultural labourers when they want them, and to remedy this state of things an immigration board is empowered to offer money grants to encourage soldiers and sailors of good character to settle in the country, and the board also pays the passages of agricultural labourers or domestic servants introduced from abroad, a con-

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siderable number of discharged soldiers have thus been induced to settle in Bermuda, and a large number of Swedes and Portuguese have been introduced, who have generally proved valuable additions to the labouring population.

Legislation.

25. Of the 18 Acts passed by the Legislature during the session there are some which seem to call for a passing notice.

26. Act No. 6, providing for the continuance of the salaries of the Chief Justice and Attorney-General, was rendered necessary by the practice which has obtained here for a very long time past of voting the salaries of the civil servants of Government for certain limited periods only, by means of temporary Acts which require to be renewed from time to time.

27. This practice seems to be open to several objections, it tends to create in the minds of the civil servants of Government a feeling of uncertainty as to the amount and the duration of their official incomes, and a painful sense of their being dependent upon the periodical votes of an Assembly, the members of which cannot in all cases have the means of knowing the nature, or the extent, or the importance of the duties assigned to each office.

28. Several Secretaries of State have pointed out to the Legislature of this Colony the impolicy of continuing this practice, and have urged the expediency of voting a fixed civil list, but the Legislative Assembly of Bermuda has not yet learnt to see the wisdom of such a measure.

29. This Act provided for the continuance for 10 more years of the salaries then payable to the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General, namely, 700*l.* and 500*l.* a year, but it added a proviso that on the death or resignation or removal of the then Chief Justice or Attorney-General the salaries of their successors should be reduced to 600*l.* and 300*l.* a year respectively.

30. I think this proviso is greatly to be regretted. Much inconvenience has already resulted from the smallness of the salary assigned to the office of Chief Justice. The gentleman who held the office at the time the Act was passed was removed from this Colony shortly afterwards to take up a better paid appointment in the Straits Settlements, and for a considerable time the Secretary of State for the Colonies was unable to find any competent person willing to accept the Chief Justiceship of Bermuda on the reduced salary, so great indeed became the delay in filling up the appointment, that after repeated postponements of the Michaelmas sittings of the Court of General Assize, it became necessary to hold those sittings without the presence of a professional judge under the guidance of two unprofessional gentlemen who had been acting as assistant judges. The weakness in legal skill of a court thus constituted might have given rise to inconvenience had there been any very grave or important cases to be tried, or had any questions been brought before the Court involving very recondite principles of law, but fortunately

the cases to be tried proved to be simple, no very intricate questions of law arose, the sittings of the court were conducted, on the whole, very satisfactorily, and ultimately the Secretary of State was able to provide a fitting successor to the late Chief Justice, but it may be anticipated that the gentleman who now holds the office will not be more willing than was his predecessor to remain long here on a very small salary, and that like him he will strive to obtain promotion to some better paid appointment elsewhere; and there is but too much reason to fear that the office of Chief Justice in these Islands may cease to be looked to as a permanent post, and may come to be considered merely as a stepping stone to be held till something better offers. It is to be apprehended that the interests of Bermuda may suffer hereafter if this state of things be long continued.

31. It is to be feared moreover that the prospective reduction in the salary of the Attorney-General from 500*l.* to 300*l.* a year may render it even more difficult to find a fitting candidate for that office, whenever it may become vacant, than has been found to be the case with respect to the appointment of Chief Justice, and for this, as well as for every other reason, it is to be hoped that the present Attorney-General may long continue to enjoy the vigour of constitution and clearness of intellect which enable him to perform so efficiently all the varied duties of the office.

32. It is the fitting duty of a representative assembly to enforce a judicious economy in the expenditure of public money, but there is some danger of inconvenience and injury to public interests if the principle be carried too far; there is a point beyond which economy may cease to be judicious, and I can only express a hope that in these Islands that point may not have been somewhat overstepped. This apprehension has already been pointed out very forcibly to the Colonial Legislature; in a Despatch, No. 28 of 1876, Lord Carnarvon addressing Governor Lefroy on the subject of the Act No. 16 of 1876, which reduced the salary of the Colonial Secretary from 500*l.* to 300*l.* a year, expressed himself thus:—

33. "Although I have not felt justified in advising Her Majesty to withhold her sanction to this Act, I cannot too strongly express my regret at observing the very inadequate amount of salary which has been voted for the Colonial Secretary. If the Assembly of Bermuda will not supply the proper remuneration for the highest and most responsible official of Government, I cannot hesitate to warn them that the interests of the Colony will inevitably suffer through the impossibility of obtaining efficient officers to undertake the duties of the post.

34. Act No. 9 of 1877 enabling the Governor in Council to postpone the sittings of the Court of General Assize was passed under peculiar circumstances.

35. Owing to the absence of a Chief Justice, it had been anticipated that it would become necessary to postpone the Michaelmas sittings of that Court, and grave doubts arose in the minds of the legal advisers of Government as to whether there existed any

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power either on the part of the assistant judges of the Court, or on that of the Governor or of any other authority in these Islands to order or authorize such postponement, and to clear up these doubts a Bill was introduced by the Attorney-General empowering the assistant judges of the Court to postpone the sittings from time to time.

36. That Bill was thrown out by the Legislative Assembly, and as time rolled on and the date fixed for the sittings of the Court drew near and no Chief Justice had yet been appointed from home, the legal advisers of Government considered it absolutely necessary to postpone the sittings, and as the Bill already rejected could not be introduced a second time in the Assembly during the same session it became necessary to adopt an alternative course, and accordingly it was proposed in a new Bill to vest the power of postponing the Court in the Governor in Council; this Bill was more successful than its predecessor, and became the Act No. 9 now under consideration, but its duration has been limited to a single year, as it was anticipated that the Assembly would see reason the following session to reconsider its decision and would pass an Act vesting the power of postponing the sittings of the Court in the hands of the Judges rather than in those of the Executive Government.

37. Act No. 10, continuing the Clergy Act of 1869, provided for the continuance of the endowment of the Colonial Clergy till the end of the year 1882. This Act was passed in spite of a very strong opposition, indeed, it was only saved from being lost altogether by a narrow majority of one vote. It contains a clause which seems to call for some notice, inasmuch as it provides that whenever any vacancy shall occur in any of the livings of the Church of England in these Islands the Governor or Bishop shall not appoint to the vacant benefice any candidate from among the local clergy before giving notice of such intended appointment to the church vestry of the parish concerned, and that the church vestry shall have power to object to the proposed appointment, and that on their intimating their objection to the Governor in writing the appointment shall not be made. The Act does not in any way however affect the power of the Crown to nominate candidates from England to vacant livings in Bermuda, and the check imposed upon any very unpopular exercise of local patronage in the Colony does not seem open to any grave objection.

38. Act No. 11, providing for the establishment of a Board of Public Works, has been the means of healing a fruitful source of contention that had previously existed between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Government. For many years previous there had been a series of misunderstandings; the Legislative Assembly insisting upon coupling every vote of funds for any important public work with the appointment of a committee to superintend the expenditure of the money, and claiming the right to nominate from its own body a certain number of the members. This power of nomination on the part of the Assembly the Executive Government had declined to recognise, and owing

to this disagreement several valuable Bills had been lost, and the public service of the Colony had suffered materially. The present Act vests the management and the control of all public works, roads, buildings, and lands, and of all moneys granted in connexion with them, in a Board consisting of the Governor and ten members named by him, of whom four are to be chosen from among the members of the Assembly. This Act has worked very well as yet, and the Board is conducting its business satisfactorily and winning the confidence of the Legislature, and of the whole community.

39. Act 17, providing for the maintenance of steam communication with New York, was one of the first fruits of the establishment of the Board of Works. A similar Bill had previously been introduced for the same purpose, but the Assembly had coupled the grant of the necessary subsidy with the appointment of a committee of supervision and the nomination by itself of a certain number of the members, and as the Executive Government declined to assent to this proviso, the Bill had been dropped and the Colony had remained for many months without any assured and regular means of communication with New York. This state of things had been universally felt to be unsatisfactory, and so soon therefore as the establishment of the Board of Public Works seemed to present the means of obviating the difficulty the Legislature passed the present Act, by means of which the Board of Works has been able to secure to these Islands the great advantage of a regular and speedy steam communication with its principal market.

Civil Establishment.

40. The civil servants of Government in Bermuda are paid very moderate salaries, and the tendency of public feeling, as expressed in the present Assembly, seems to be rather to reduce than to increase them. The Chief Justice receives only 600*l.* a year, the Colonial Secretary only 300*l.*, the Attorney-General is paid 500*l.* a year, but the Act which provides for the payment of that salary enacts that whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office, the amount shall be reduced to 300*l.* a year; all the other salaries are in proportion.

41. When it is borne in mind that this Government is unable to grant any pensions or retiring allowances to its servants and that public servants must therefore set apart some portion of their incomes to provide for old age, and when it is further remembered that in Bermuda, house rent and the prices of nearly all the necessaries and comforts of life are higher than they are in England, it will be seen that the civil servants of Bermuda are not so well paid for their labours as are those of most other British Colonies.

42. On the other hand it is but fair to point out that the natives of Bermuda form but a small and comparatively poor community, and that they seem to fear that the causes which have

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led to the present prosperous condition of their revenue, may prove only temporary; that so soon as the great works of defence that are now being carried out by the Imperial Government are completed the military garrison may be reduced, and the Imperial expenditure very materially diminished; and that some of the Southern States of America may learn the secret of supplying the eastern cities with early spring produce, and so deprive Bermuda of its present exclusive command of the spring market, and that thus they may see their present agricultural prosperity disappear as they once saw their commercial prosperity vanish, and they are very unwilling therefore to pledge the uncertain resources of future years to the payment of an expensive civil service.

Gaols and Prisoners.

43. There are two gaols, one at Hamilton, the other at St. George. The first is a very small establishment, badly planned and badly constructed, and the site, though conveniently situated in the immediate vicinity of the court house and of the police office, is too confined as regards space to allow of much improvement. The second prison at St. George is better circumstanced as regards available space, and is a larger and better building, and might be so improved as to form an excellent prison, but it is not thought convenient to have the chief prison of the Islands situated at so great a distance from the court house when the general assizes are held. A project is under consideration for building a new prison on some convenient site in or near Hamilton.

44. The number of prisoners for whom it would be necessary to provide accommodation need not exceed 32, and there are few long sentences, as most of the offences committed in these Islands are of a comparatively trifling character.

Lunatic Asylum.

45. The lunatic asylum is established in a very healthy locality situated on an elevated plateau, surrounded by garden ground and open fields, and extensive woods, distant some miles from the town. The general health of the patients has been remarkably good; some defects in the construction and arrangements of the buildings, which were pointed out by the Medical Superintendent in his annual report for 1877, have been remedied, and the institution now provides very convenient accommodation for all its inmates.

46. The discipline maintained is mild but effective; every effort is made to amuse and interest the patients, the women work, and an extensive garden provides for the quieter male patients a healthy occupation with which most of them, from their previous mode of life, are already familiar, and which, while it affords them the means of recreation and amusement, helps to diminish the cost of the establishment, and furnishes a welcome supply of wholesome vegetables, which in this small confined and uncertain market are sometimes not to be obtained for money.

47. It is interesting to remark that of the 26 patients under treatment in the asylum at the end of the year, eight only were white, while 18 belonged to the coloured race. This disproportion between the numbers of the two races is nearly double that which obtains outside among the same population. It is remarkable also, that of the eight whites three only were men, while five were women; and that among the 18 coloured people five only were men, while 13 were women. Possibly some explanation for this great preponderance of coloured people and of women may be found in the fact that in Bermuda there is no asylum for the aged poor or for helpless infirmity, and that there is consequently a tendency among the poorer families to try to provide for the more helpless among them by getting them admitted as inmates to the lunatic asylum.

Climate and Public Health.

48. The climate of Bermuda is favourable to health. The summer heats are never excessive, the temperature rarely exceeding 84° Fahrenheit in the shade. The winters are mild yet bracing, the thermometer descending at times as low as 40°. The summers however, though not unhealthy, are very relaxing, owing to the general prevalence during the summer season of south-westerly winds, which, coming up straight from the Gulf of Mexico, arrive heavily charged with the tepid vapours of the Gulf stream, and render our summer atmosphere peculiarly heavy and moist. It is singular that with such a summer atmosphere, and with a considerable portion of its surface occupied by undrained marshes, the exhalations from which must necessarily be more or less prejudicial, Bermuda should have no local summer fevers, such as prevail at Malta and at Gibraltar. This immunity from local disease may probably be due to the small extent of land surface, and its distribution in long narrow bands separated by arms of the sea and raised but slightly above its surface, so that the whole area of each Island is frequently swept by the sea breeze which carries away with it every unwholesome emanation. The year 1877 was a typical year in this respect; the summer was unusually warm and unusually wet, there was much rain, and the atmosphere was more than usually charged with vapour, yet the health of the civil community and of the soldiers and sailors in no way suffered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. M. LAFFAN, Major-General,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 4.

Governor Sir H. T. IRVING, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Trinidad, August 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Trinidad for 1877, and to submit the following abstract of its contents.

Taxes and Duties.

The changes which took place in the taxation of the Colony were the repeal, as from 1st January 1877, of the duty of 4 per cent. on the annual rental value of the premises in which any trade or business was carried on, and the abolition, on the 1st August, of the tonnage dues. The receipts from this tax in 1876 amounted to 1,626*l.* The Colonial Bank continues to pay a license duty of 200*l.* a year. The yield of the tonnage dues to the 31st July was 3,878*l.* The amount collected during 1876 was 5,345*l.* These duties were repealed by Ordinance 13 of 1876, and as regards duties on shipping Trinidad is now a free port. The shipping returns for the first six months of each of the last three years exhibit the following figures:—

The number of arrivals from January to June		1876 was	721,
„	„	1877 „	897,
„	„	1878 „	1,152,

and it is reasonable to suppose that the remarkable increase for the current year may have been due in some measure to the abolition of the duties on tonnage.

A fee of 5*s.* for a license to carry and use a gun was imposed during the year rather for police than for fiscal purposes; 587 licenses were taken out.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total gross revenue of the Colony, including items of account, was 310,337*l.*, of which customs contributed 127,034*l.*; rum duty, 56,396*l.*; wharfage dues, 13,415*l.*; licenses, 9,068*l.*; railway, 18,197*l.*; fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, 6,193*l.*; reimbursements in aid, 18,319*l.*; and land sales, 4,124*l.*

As compared with 1876 there was an increase under the head of customs, notwithstanding the reduction of the item tonnage, of 10,525*l.* The main reason for this increase was the importation of a large quantity of foreign rum for local consumption, the home manufacture not being sufficient for the demand.

There was consequently a corresponding decrease in the excise duty on rum, the amount paid being 10,212*l.* less than in 1876.

The gross revenue shows a decline of 5,833*l.* The deficiency occurs under the following heads of service :—

	£
Immigration - - - -	5,709
Land sales - - - -	2,103
Miscellaneous receipts - -	2,109
Interest - - - -	2,091

The railway traffic receipts exhibit an increase of 8,237*l.*, as compared with 1876, the line being in 1876 in operation for a portion only of the year.

The expenditure of 1877 amounted to 312,586*l.*, that of 1876 to 318,362*l.*; the excess in 1876 is accounted for by a larger expenditure on immigration.

Local Revenues.

The house rate in the towns and the land tax in the country districts are not included in the general taxation of the Colony.

The boroughs of Port of Spain and San Fernando administer their own finances.

The revenue and expenditure of the boroughs and ward unions in 1877 were as follows :—

Port of Spain.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue - - -	10,276	0	0
Expenditure - - -	10,596	0	0

San Fernando.

Revenue - - -	4,629	0	0
Expenditure - - -	3,755	0	0

Ward Unions.

Revenue - - -	41,260	0	0
Expenditure - - -	38,862	0	0

Public Debt.

No new debt was incurred, and by payments made during the year outstanding liabilities were reduced from 184,670*l.* to 178,000*l.*

Public Works.

Five thousand four hundred and ninety-five pounds were expended on new works, which included the completion of additional wards at the lunatic asylum, the house of refuge, and the Chagnanas Convict Depôt, alterations to the Custom House in Port of Spain, the commencement of a new prison at Carrera's Island, and the construction of quarters adjoining the Colonial Hospital in Port of Spain for the accommodation of the assistant-surgeons of that Institution.

The list of repairs, &c. to existing buildings is a long one, the most important of those effected were repairs to the San Fernando

TRINIDAD.

Hospital, costing 784*l.*; alterations to the Colonial Hospital, 874*l.*; additions to the leper asylum, 1,031*l.*; furniture and fittings of the police barracks in Port of Spain, 427*l.*; repairs to Port of Spain Rectory House, 387*l.*; decorating ball-room of the Prince's Building. The total sum expended on repairs and alterations was 7,606*l.*, on roads and bridges 25,699*l.*

Legislation.

Twenty-two Ordinances were enacted during the year.

No. 1. To amend the law as to imprisonment for debt.

No. 2. For regulating the Complaint Court.

No. 3. To amend the law as to quarantine.

No. 4. To discontinue the allowance of drawback for wharfage duty.

No. 5. To provide for the custody of lunatics.

No. 6. To impose a duty on licenses to use guns. (This Ordinance is repealed by No. 22, which bears the same title.)

No. 7. To provide for the more convenient administration of "The Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873."

No. 8. To fix the security to be given by the Receiver-General.

No. 9. To facilitate the collection of legacy and succession duty.

No. 10. For the more effectual protection of the estates of deceased persons.

No. 11 is the supplemental appropriation Ordinance.

No. 12. To amend the Ordinance No. 13 of 1868.

No. 13. To regulate Hackney carriages in the town of Port of Spain.

No. 14. For extending the railway between Port of Spain and Arima.

No. 15. To amend the law as to offences against property.

No. 16. To amend the law as to offences against the person.

No. 17. To amend the law as to penalties for crimes.

No. 18. To amend Ordinance No. 28 of 1868.

No. 19. To make the Complaint Court Ordinance, 1876, perpetual.

No. 20. Appropriation Ordinance, 1878.

No. 21. For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1878.

No. 22. To impose a duty on licenses to use guns.

Civil Establishment.

The government was administered until 3rd February by Mr. Bushe, the Colonial Secretary, and from that date by Lieutenant-Governor Des Vœux. Mr. Hobson, Registrar of the Courts, retired on a pension, and was succeeded by Mr. L. M. Fraser, formerly Inspector Commandant of Police. Capt. A. W. Baker was appointed to succeed Mr. Fraser as chief of police. A

vacancy was caused in the office of Harbour-master by the death of Captain Larcom, which has been filled by the appointment of of Mr. G. W. Norman. The retirement on pension of Messrs. J. T. Bowen and J. H. Lacroix, wardens of St. Ann's and Tacarigua, occasioned changes in the wardenships. Mr. M. Thomas, Marshal of the Island, also retired on a pension, and the office has been conferred on Mr. D. B. Horsford. There were some other changes of minor importance, which need not be mentioned here.

Foreign Consuls.

The only new appointment during the year was that of General A. A. Level as Consul for the Republic of Venezuela.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

The number of depositors in the Government savings banks in Port of Spain and San Fernando shows an increase of 527 as compared with 1876. The numbers are—in Port of Spain, 837; in San Fernando, 772.

One thousand six hundred and thirty-six Indian immigrants were introduced during the year, and 466 of those who had become entitled to a return passage embarked for India.

The arrivals from the neighbouring countries amounted during the year to 6,017 souls, a number which, allowing for passengers in transit, &c. represents a substantial addition to the population of the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports is returned at 1,708,457*l.*, and of the exports at 2,093,650*l.* The figures for 1876 are—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - - -	1,666,268	0	0
Exports - - -	1,636,618	0	0

showing an increase in the business transactions of the Colony of nearly half a million sterling, or over 15 per cent. The quantity exported in 1877 was—

Sugar - - -	917,080 cwt.
Molasses - - -	1,464,472 gallons.
Cocoa - - -	9,726,742 lbs.
Coffee - - -	74,189 ,,
Cocoa-nuts - -	4,628,529
Asphalt - - -	12,717 tons.
Bitters - - -	16,959 gallons.

The above comprise the principal articles of export.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered in 1877 was 2,281, with an aggregate tonnage of 305,102 tons. The number cleared was 2,101, with a tonnage of 306,894 tons.

Agriculture.

The lands in private hands not comprised within the borough boundaries are assessed triennially, and this assessment took place in 1877. The returns show that the total number of acres in crop is 99,403, of which 2,885 are planted in cocoa-nuts, 52,150 in sugar-cane, 21,279 in cocoa and coffee, 16,986 in ground provisions, such as yams, tamas, &c., 6,103 acres are stated to be pasture land, and 152,408 acres are uncultivated.

Grants of Land.

Four hundred and four were issued during the year, representing an acreage of 4,317 acres. Of these 1,700 were granted to Indian immigrants in lieu of return passage.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There were in 1877 3,168 committals, the daily average number in prison being 433. The total cost of the establishment, including the pay of the staff, was 8,340*l.*, and the estimated value of the prisoners' labour 5,721*l.*

Criminal Statistics.

This return shows a decrease of 1,407 in the number of cases reported, but an increase of 1,126 in the number of convictions. The increases occurred under the following heads:—

Assaults and other offences against the person -	332
Malicious injuries to property - - -	19
Prædial larceny - - - - -	27
Offences against property other than the above -	80
Offences against Revenue Acts, &c. - -	45
Offences against Masters and Servants Acts, including Acts relating to indentured Coolies -	390
Other offences - - - - -	233

In the superior courts there were 2 convictions for murder, 7 for manslaughter, 1 concealment of birth, 2 for rape, 3 for unnatural crimes, 45 for other offences against the person, 7 for malicious injuries to property, 16 for other offences against property, and 21 for miscellaneous offences, making a total of 104.

Hospitals.

Under this head are comprised the following Government medical institutions:—Colonial Hospital, Port of Spain; San Fernando Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Leper Asylum, and House of Refuge.

The statistics of these institutions for the year are subjoined.

Colonial Hospital.

Number of inmates at close of the year - -	276
Admitted during the year - - -	2,552
Died - - - - - -	354
Discharged - - - - -	2,146

San Fernando Hospital.

Number of inmates	105
Admitted	1,516
Died	166
Discharged	1,335

Lunatic Asylum.

Number of inmates	172
Admitted	78
Died	20
Discharged	26

Leper Asylum.

Number of inmates	119
Admitted	36
Died	16
Discharged	16

House of Refuge.

Number of inmates	65
Admitted	75
Died	26
Discharged	34

The cost of these institutions, exclusive of the salaries of the medical staff, during the year was 17,187*l.*, but some portion of this outlay is repaid into the Treasury under the head of "Reimbursements in aid."

General Remarks.

The measures taken during the last few years to open up and improve the communications of the country are beginning to produce remarkable results. Cultivation, business, and locomotion are rapidly increasing, and, notwithstanding the general depression of trade and a short crop of sugar, the statistics of the Island are very satisfactory.

For the current year the import and export trade of the Colony taken together will probably exceed four millions sterling. When it is borne in mind that as yet a fraction only, probably not more than one tenth, of the soil is under cultivation, and that the population, according to the census of 1871, was only 110,000, these figures afford a striking indication of the present wealth and future capabilities of the Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

BRITISH GUIANA.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 5.

Governor KORTRIGHT, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
December 9, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1877, together with a report which has been drawn up by Mr. Charles P. Austin, Acting Government Secretary.

2. The expenditure was in excess of that of the previous year by 36,831*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.*, caused chiefly by an increased expenditure on account of works and buildings, and by the expenditure necessarily incurred in establishing the new system of education. The revenue, raised from various sources, together with the balance in the Treasury at the end of 1876, was, however, more than adequate to meet the expenditure, there being a balance carried to the credit of 1878 of 112,363*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

3. In all respects the state of the Colony contrasts favourably with that of 1876. Although summary convictions for offences and convictions in the Supreme Courts have exceeded those of the previous year, the total number of offences has decreased from 33,746 to 33,049.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1877.

Finances.

1. The revenue collected in 1877 amounted to 389,871*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, being 26,063*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* in excess of the revenue in 1876. This increase is mainly due to the increase in the import duties, but there has been also an increase under nearly all the chief heads of revenue.

2. The expenditure in 1877 amounted to 380,565*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, being 36,831*l.* 2*s.* 0½*d.* in excess of the expenditure for 1876. The chief items in which there was an excess in the expenditure were works and buildings, in which there was an excess of over 15,000*l.* Education, which commenced in 1877 to be Colonial instead of as hitherto almost exclusively denominational, and the purchase for educational purposes of the Queen's and Bishop's Colleges. Roads and bridges which were put in better order.

Larger public works were undertaken during the year, and there was also an increase in the number of immigrants introduced.

3. The sum of 380,565*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, the expenditure for the year 1877, includes 38,157*l.* 19*s.* 8½*d.* the Colony's proportion of the cost of immigration, the total cost for the immigration in 1877 being 73,601*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*

4. Including the balance of 102,415*l.* 18*s.* 10½*d.* remaining in the Treasury at the end of 1876, the revenue collected in 1877, the deposits, repayments, and other special receipts, and the planters' contribution to the Immigration Fund, the total amount available in 1877 was 555,652*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.* The total payments, including the general expenditure, repayment of deposits, special payments, and the planters' share of immigration, amounted to 443,288*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance carried to the year 1878 amounting to 112,363*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, of which 24,160*l.* 17*s.* 9½*d.* is available for the general service of the Colony, the remainder being required for services performed, but not liquidated, and to meet the payments of deposits and other special objects.

Local Revenues.

5. The local revenues of the several incorporated towns and villages amounted in the aggregate to 48,290*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, and the expenditure to 47,027*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*

Public Debt.

6. The public debt of the Colony amounted on the 31st December 1877 to 19,451*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

7. Besides this, there are the following debts guaranteed by the Colony, the security for which is ample, namely: for immigration expenses secured on the sugar estates by notes given for indenture fees, 188,600*l.*; raised for the corporation of the city of Georgetown, 56,166*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*; raised for the corporation of the town of New Amsterdam, 5,972*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*; which together with the public debt amount to 270,190*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

Public Works.

8. The total amount expended upon public works in 1877 was 47,466*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.* Of this there was expended upon sea defences, 7,698*l.* 10*s.* 6½*d.*; water-supply for estates on east coast and east river bank, Demerara and Georgetown, 7,971*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.*; public stellings, 6,684*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; penal settlement, wall round the prison and officers' quarters, 1,203*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; sewage works in Georgetown, 1,454*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* Almshouse, Georgetown, 1,062*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; Reformatory at Ouderneeming, 1,318*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.*; Public hospital at Ouderneeming, 1,605*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.*; Police and court station at Anna Regina, 1,885*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* The balance, 16,581*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, being expended on repairs to various other public buildings, roads and bridges, and other works.

Legislation.

9. Fourteen laws were passed in 1877.

10. Amongst the Ordinances enacted in 1877 the following are chiefly to be noticed:—

Ordinance No. 5.—To grant for a limited time certain powers to the Colonial Civil Engineer to enable him to effect certain improvements in the sanitary condition of the city of Georgetown;

Ordinance No. 6.—To establish a training institution for the training of teachers for primary schools; and

Ordinance No. 10, by which the laws relating to the constitution and management of companies incorporated for carrying on undertakings of a public nature are consolidated in one Ordinance.

Court of Policy.

11. Mr. R. Smith, who retired on the termination of the annual session of the Combined Court, was re-elected a member of the Court in the room of Mr. J. Craigen, who resigned his seat. Mr. Drysdale was elected to the vacancy caused by Mr. R. Smith's retirement at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court. Mr. J. E. Tinne and Mr. J. W. Dawson were elected in the room of Mr. Russell and Mr. H. S. Bascom, who resigned on leaving the Colony.

Combined Court.

12. Mr. W. D. Elliott was elected to the vacancy caused by Mr. Drysdale being elected a member of the Court of Policy, Mr. S. Booker to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. A. Duff, and Mr. R. J. Kelly and Mr. H. K. Dawson were re-elected after the expiry of their terms of service.

College of Electors.

13. Mr. H. M. A. Black was elected in the room of Mr. C. L. Bascom, who resigned on leaving the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

14. There were changes in the staff owing to the death of Mr. Le Gall, first clerk in the Government Secretary's Office, Mr. J. P. Cuckon, District Commissary of Taxation, Mr. A. S. L. Backer, Assistant Commissary of Taxation. Mr. Laurie Aidwaiter, Customs, Georgetown, Mr. Humphreys, Sheriff of Essequebo and a Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. E. P. Dalton, Accountant in the Registrar's Office of Demerara and Essequebo, Reverend G. M. Woodhouse, Curate in St. John's parish, Mr. C. Chalmers, Crown Surveyor, and Mr. G. W. K. Crocker, Supervisor of Aidwaiters, Customs, Georgetown, also died during the year.

15. Among the new appointments and promotions were those of Major Mitchell as Colonial Receiver-General in the room of Mr. Inglis, who died in 1876, Mr. G. Melville, who succeeded

Mr. Legall as Chief Clerk in the Government Secretary's Office, Mr. Haly and Mr. Lambert as District Commissaries, Mr. H. Read and Mr. H. L. Straker as Sub-Immigration Agents, Mr. G. C. Benson as Superintending Clerk of the Government Telegraph, Mr. Percival and Mr. Eddy as Principal and Second Master at Queen's College, now become a Colonial institution. Mr. Bartley as Secretary to the Board of Education, and Mr. E. J. R. Willcocks as Master of the Colonial Training Institution. Mr. Kirke was appointed Sheriff of Essequebo, and Mr. G. H. Hawtayne a Stipendiary Magistrate in the room of Mr. Humphreys, who died during the year. Mr. Schurer succeeded Mr. E. P. Dalton as Accountant in the Registrar's Office of Demerara and Essequebo. The Rev. J. McDonald was appointed incumbent of Christ Church in the room of the Rev. J. E. Fox, who retired from ill-health, and the Rev. G. Robb succeeded the Rev. D. Maitland, who died in 1875, as minister of St. Mark's.

Pensions.

16. Mr. Manthorp, Inspector of Police, Mr. G. Leacock, District Commissary of Taxation, Mr. R. C. Swain of the Customs Department, and four others holding minor appointments retired on pension in 1877.

Population.

17. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1877, including 5,538 immigrants who arrived during the year, and deducting those immigrants who returned to India, 931 in number, and the deaths recorded of 8,677 persons, was 228,880, the net increase over 1876 being 3,415. The population by the census of 1871 being 193,491.

18. The number of deaths as shown above was 8,677, whilst the births registered amounted only to 7,587. The excess of deaths can only be accounted for by the disproportion between the sexes.

19. The condition of the people exhibits no marked change during the past year. The deposits in the Savings Bank still continue to increase. The number of depositors in 1877 was 7,763, as compared with 7,288 in 1876, and the deposits increased from 132,746*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* in 1876 to 148,516*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* in 1877. The amount carried away by the people who returned to India in 1877 was 20,397*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

Education.

20. The change which took place in the system of education by the law passed at the end of 1876 not having been yet fully worked out, it would seem desirable for the present to defer any remarks on this subject for a future occasion.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Trade.

21. The imports of the Colony in 1877 were valued at 2,229,908*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of 246,743*l.* 1*s.* on the imports in 1876.

22. The increase is chiefly owing to the increased importation and value (in articles of food) of rice, flour, pork, fish (dried and all other sorts), lumber, machinery, and staves, these imports being valued at 851,068*l.* 14*s.* 3½*d.* in 1877 and 603,658*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* in 1876. There was a falling off in the importation of beef, pickled, corn, and pulse. There was an increase in the quantity but a decrease in the value of bread imported.

23. The value of the exports was 3,049,157*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* in 1877 and 3,031,069*l.* 5*s.* 2½*d.* in 1876.

24. There was a falling off in the production of sugar and rum, but an increase in molasses. The export of rice was more than double that of 1876. The export of timber shows a decrease, but the exports of cocoa-nuts and charcoal an increase for the year 1877 as compared with the year 1876.

Criminal Statistics.

25. The number of offences reported has decreased from 19,090 to 17,010. The number of persons apprehended was 33,746 in 1876, and 33,049 in 1877. The number of summary convictions shows an increase from 17,549 in 1876 to 18,130 in 1877. In 1875 the summary convictions were 22,763. In the supreme courts there has likewise been an increase in the number of convictions from 257 to 301. In the number of convictions under the Immigration and Labour Laws there has been a large decrease from 6,341 in 1876 to 4,002 in 1877.

26. The total number of persons tried in the superior courts was 469 in 1877, as against 405 in 1876. Of the 469 persons tried in 1877, 301 were convicted, 122 were acquitted, in one case the prisoner was found insane, and 45 cases fell through for want of prosecution. The number of trials for murder in 1877 were four, of which three ended in conviction, and in one the case fell through for want of prosecution. This compares favourably with the years 1875 and 1876, in each of which years the trials for murder amounted to 16.

Gaols and Prisoners.

27. At the penal settlement the stone wall round the prison was completed, and other works are either completed or in course of construction. A new hospital is to be built on a site opposite the penal settlement for seamen and sick persons in the district, and thus free the penal settlement from the presence of persons unconnected with that establishment. The total number of prisoners committed to the several prisons of the Colony in 1877 was 8,146, as compared with 8,370 in 1876.

Hospitals and Asylums.

28. The total number of patients in the Colonial Hospital of Demerara and Essequebo, including the seamen's ward, at the beginning of 1877 was 453. The total number admitted in the course of the year was 5,564, and the average daily number of in-patients was 455. The total number of deaths was 764, of these, 86 cases were taken to the hospital in a moribund condition, and deducting these the mortality was at the rate of 112 in the thousand, as compared with 113 in the thousand in 1876.

29. The statistics of the Colonial Hospital at Berbice show the number of patients in hospital at the beginning of the year as 63. There was an increase in the number of admissions, 1,277 having been admitted in 1877 against 1,123 in 1876; the daily average of in-patients was 68. The number of deaths in 1877 was in excess of the number in 1876, being 194 and 172 respectively. Of these 194, there were 58 moribund cases taken to the hospital, and, deducting these, the mortality was at the rate of 101 in the thousand, whilst in 1876 the mortality was at the rate of 87 in the thousand.

30. The statistics of the lunatic asylum show a total of 110 as the number of persons admitted to that institution during the year. There were 215 patients in the asylum at the commencement of the year. The daily average was 238. The number of those cured or relieved and discharged 30, and the number of deaths 47, leaving 248 persons in the asylum at the close of the year.

Charitable Institutions.

31. With the exception of the Saffon School all the charitable institutions are supported out of the general revenue.

32. At the leper asylums at Mahaica and Kaow Island the number of inmates at the close of the year was 243, being 47 less than at the same period of 1876.

33. At the Orphan Asylum there were 132 children in 1877, as compared with 119 in 1876.

34. The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, to which is attached a library, reading room, and public museum, and which is situated in Georgetown, receives an annual grant of 416*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* from the general revenue. In addition to this in 1877 a special grant of 312*l.* 10*s.* was given for a curator for the museum. In New Amsterdam there is a reading society and library.

(Signed) CHAS. PIERCY AUSTIN,
Acting Government Secretary.

November 29, 1878.

BARBADOS.

No. 6.

Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, December 3, 1878.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 133 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose a report by the Colonial Secretary upon the Blue Book of Barbados for the year 1877.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

BLUE BOOK, 1877.—COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£
The revenue of Barbados for 1877 amounted to -	121,432
For 1876, the amount was - - -	117,057
Showing an increase in 1877 of - - -	4,375

2. This increase is due to an improvement in the staple crop as compared with 1876, and would probably have amounted to 7,000*l.* had it not been for an alteration in the Liquor License Laws, to be hereafter noticed.

3. The following table affords a comparison of the yield of the principal sources of revenue in the years 1876 and 1877 :—

Source of Revenue.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Tonnage - - - -	11,313	13,295	1,982	—
Import - - - -	49,857	54,616	4,759	—
20 per cent. - - -	9,961	10,924	963	—
Warehouse rent - - -	285	449	164	—
Port dues - - - -	2,280	2,776	486	—
Militia tax - - -	3,377	4,005	628	—
Rum duty - - -	15,384	15,252	—	132
Retail liquor licenses - -	5,400	2,888	—	2,512
Post office - - -	1,944	2,032	88	—
Receipts on aid - - -	3387	3,569	182	—
Special receipts - - -	4,583	863	—	3,720
Repayments - - -	233	733	500	—
Superannuation - - -	1,321	965	—	356
Water rate - - -	3,000	3,666	666	—
Fire brigade - - -	500	716	216	—
Miscellaneous - - -	1,188	1,663	475	—
Totals - -	114,013	118,402	11,109	6,720
		114,013	6,720	
Increase in 1877 -	- -	4,389	4,389	Net increase.

4. Of the increases, 8,954*l.* is due to customs' revenue, 628*l.* is due to arrears of militia taxes paid up in 1877, and the remainder may be said to be nominal. On the other hand, there is a decrease of 2,512*l.* on liquor licenses, due to the Liquor License Act of 1876, by which the cost of a license issued to traders rated under 10*l.* was reduced from 25*l.* to 5*l.* Although the revenue from licenses has decreased there has been an increase in the retail liquor traffic, and it is anticipated that the revenue will in the course of a year or two recover in duty on the increased quantity of rum sold the money lost on the reduced license fees.

5. The decrease in "Special Receipts," 3,720*l.*, is due mainly to transfers made in 1876 from special funds to the general revenue, and the decrease in the "Superannuation" contributions is due to the fact that public officers are allowed by the law of 5th February 1875 to postpone payment of retrospective contributions until their retirement.

Expenditure.

6. The expenditure for 1877 amounted to 119,611*l.* against 123,727*l.* for 1876, showing a decrease of 4,116*l.* as compared with 1876, and a balance of 1,821*l.* in favour of the Treasury at the end of 1877. The following expenses were, however, incurred in 1877, and not paid until 1878:—

	£	£
Printing	362	
Official Gazette	62	
Secretary, Education Committee	62	
Police reward fund	531	
Curates' back pay	136	
Molehead	556	
Telegrams	625	
Military outpost expenses	213	
Jurors (not freeholders)	89	
		2,636
From this should be deducted charges paid in 1877, which were incurred in 1876, viz.:		
Printing	178	
Judge special session	1,000	
		1,178
		1,458

Showing an actual balance of revenue over expenditure amounting to 363*l.* on the transactions of 1877.

BARBADOS.

7. The following table contains a comparison of the principal heads of expenditure in 1877 with the same heads in 1876:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Civil	4,661	4,662	1	—
Customs	4,322	4,693	371	—
Excise	1,045	1,172	127	—
Post Office	3,334	3,330	—	4
Judicial	10,445	10,898	453	—
Ecclesiastical	11,751	11,382	—	369
Educational	8,077	7,998	—	79
Police	19,441	20,383	942	—
Harbour police	1,931	2,507	574	—
Fire brigade	1,066	1,022	—	44
Prisons	7,879	7,855	6	—
General Hospital	5,988	6,836	848	—
Lazaretto	3,615	3,366	—	249
Lunatic asylum	3,660	3,490	—	170
Superannuation	1,981	2,631	650	—
Roads	4,600	5,900	1,300	—
Government House	1,547	242	—	1,305
Lighthouses	815	1,126	311	—
Molehead	4,425	328	—	4,097
Works and buildings	1,113	13	—	1,100
Drawback	5,175	4,519	—	656
Waterworks Co.	4,391	8,531	4,140	—
Miscellaneous	7,539	2,668	—	4,871
Total	118,801	115,582	9,725	12,944
	115,582			9,725
	3,219		Net decrease	3,219

8. The principal increases are under the heads of "Judicial," 453*l.*; "Police," 942*l.*; "Harbour Police," 974*l.*; "General Hospital," 848*l.*; "Superannuation," 650*l.*; "Roads," 1,300*l.*; and "Waterworks Company," 4,140*l.*

9. The principal decreases are under "Ecclesiastical," 369*l.*; "Government House," 1,305*l.*; "Molehead," 4,097*l.*; "Works and Buildings," 1,100*l.*; "Drawbacks," 656*l.*; and "Miscellaneous," 4,871*l.*

10. Of the increases "Judicial" includes a charge of 1,000*l.* paid to Judge Phillips for presiding at the special session. This charge properly belongs to 1876.

11. The increase in "Police" is due to the fact that the pay of the police for December 1875 was drawn on the 31st of that month instead of in the January following, so that the account for 1876 contains only 11 months' salaries.

12. The increase in "Harbour Police" is due to the enlargement of the force in 1876.

13. The increases under "General Hospital," "Superannuation," "Roads," and "Waterworks," are nominal. To quote the acting Auditor-General's report for 1877:—

"To the 'General Hospital' there is annually due a subsidy of 6,000*l.*, besides 630*l.* for medical and chaplain's salaries; to the 'Roads Commissioners, 5,450*l.*; to the 'Bridgetown Waterworks

Company,' 5,000*l.*; and to the 'Ecclesiastical Establishments,' 11,620*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* Variations under these heads are nominal, as the whole of each sum named is sooner or later paid out, except occasional fractions of the salary of a vacant curacy."

14. The "Superannuation" increase was in the ordinary course. Three fresh pensioners were added to the list in 1877, and some small repayments were made.

15. Of the decreases:—Under "Ecclesiastical" the decrease is nominal, for the reason above stated. Under "Government House" it is due to extensive repairs executed in 1876. Under "Molehead" the decrease was in reality less than is shown in the table. Thus:—

	£	£
Expenditure in 1876 - - - -	—	4,425
Expenditure in 1877, as shown - -	328	
Payments awaiting legislative indemnity (since indemnified) - - - -	551	
		879
Reducing the decrease to - - -		3,546

due to the non-existence of a board authorised to continue the works. A board has since been appointed, and the works (repairs and alterations of wharf walls, dredging the careenage, &c.), are in progress.

16. *Works and Buildings.*—778*l.* was expended in 1876 on purchasing and putting up an iron gallery, and on putting up a light at one of the lighthouses; 78*l.* was expended on repairing the house provided for the medical superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum; and 260*l.* in purchasing some land near the careenage. The expenditure returned under this head in the 1877 account was limited to repairing a powder magazine and the railing of a monument. The greater part, however, of the expenditure in works and buildings both in 1876 and 1877 is included under the heads of expenditure of the various departments on which the money was expended.

17. *Miscellaneous.*— The miscellaneous expenditure for 1876 includes payment of a subsidy for a year and nine months at 2,500*l.* to the W. I. and P. Telegraph Company. The expenditure for 1877 includes only nine months' subsidy at the same rate. A decrease of 2,500*l.* is thus accounted for. The remainder of the decrease is accounted for as follows:—

Legislative grants and loans for various purposes voted	£
in 1876 - - - - - -	1,174
Telegrams in 1876 - - - - -	864
Expenses of troops on outpost duty - - -	361
Remuneration to special constables - - -	294
	2,693

No items of this character appear in the account for 1877.

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Local Revenue and Expenditure

18. Local revenues are raised and the proceeds expended by the vestries of the 11 parishes of the Colony.

19. the qualifications for a vestryman are as follows :—

Owner in fee or in tail of 10 or more acres of land with a dwelling house of not less than 64*l.* in value; or,

Any person interested beneficially or by right of marriage, &c. in a life estate, or in any greater estate, in lands or tenements of not less than 25*l.* annual value; or,

Lessee of lands or tenements for the residue of a term of not less than five years originally, at a rent of not less than 128*l.* per annum; or,

Occupier of any house, warehouse, &c. in a town parochially rated at not less than 64*l.* per annum; or,

Ratepayer of not less than two years' standing who has paid not less than 6*l.* 5*s.* parochial taxes during the two years next preceding his candidature as a vestryman.

20. Every vestryman must also be a registered voter for the property in respect of which he claims his qualification, so as to entitle him to vote for the election of members of Assembly.

21. The right of voting at the election of the vestrymen of the various parishes is restricted to persons entitled to vote for the election of members of Assembly in such parishes.

22. The parochial revenues are mainly derived from rates laid on owners and occupiers of lands or houses, gainful trades. A tax of 5*s.* a head is also laid on dogs.

23. The rates are laid once a year, on the 25th March or within 21 days, and have to be published on three successive Sundays afterwards. Any person rated may in the meanwhile object to his rating. Should the vestry decline to alter the rates on the representation of the person rated, an appeal lies to the Governor in Council. After the expiration of the term of publication the rates are submitted to the Governor in Council for allowance. Arrears may be recovered by distraint.

24. The vestry accounts are kept by the parochial treasurers, who are paid by commissions of 6 per cent. on parochial taxes, 20 per cent. on dog taxes, and 5 per cent on highway taxes.

25. The vestrymen of each parish are empowered to appoint annually three "fit and proper" persons as commissioners of roads for the different parishes. The Commissioners of Health for the parish of St. Michael for the time being are ex officio Commissioners of Roads for Bridgetown.

26. Separate rates are raised for the maintenance of the roads, and a tax is levied on horses, mules, asses, and wheeled vehicles. The revenue derived from these sources is supplemented by an annual grant from the Legislature of 5,450*l.*

27. The revenue raised in the various parishes for parochial purposes during the year 1877, amounted to £ 30,634

	£
Revenue raised for highway purposes - -	7,385
Legislative grant for highways - - -	5,450
	43,469

(A sum equal to 35·7 per cent. of the general revenue of the Colony for 1877.)

28. The expenditure was as follows:—

	£
Parochial purposes - - - -	29,503
Highways (the full amount is always expended, taking one year with another) - -	12,835
	42,338

(Equal to 34·4 per cent. of the general expenditure of the Colony for 1877.)

	£	£
29. A balance thus appears in favour of "parochial purposes" of - - - -	—	1,131
But from this should be deducted arrears -	542	
Balances due, Par. Treasurers - -	279	
	——	821
Leaving an actual balance of - - -		310

on the year's transactions.

30. I append four tables. The first shows the parochial revenue and expenditure during 1877.

TABLE showing PAROCHIAL REVENUE and EXPENDITURE exclusive of HIGHWAYS, Year ended 24th March 1877.

Parishes.	Balance in hand at 24th March 1876.	Arrears at 24th March 1876.	Rates and Taxes, 1876-77.	Other Revenues, 1876-77.	Balances due Parochial Treasurer 24th March 1877.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Philip - -	467 17 8	50 19 10	1,910 10 5	599 7 7	—	3,028 15 6
St. James - -	—	—	1,036 7 1	103 12 0	5 0 5	1,144 19 6
St. Thomas - -	40 12 10	—	942 6 5	85 3 1	—	1,068 2 4
St. Peter - -	—	99 9 2	1,310 16 5	225 13 10	—	1,635 19 5
St. Andrew - -	7 4 4	3 1	853 3 0	38 19 10	—	899 10 3
St. Lucy - -	—	—	919 16 7	150 4 6	—	1,070 1 1
Christ Church -	3 4 3	2 8 7	1,339 10 10	69 10 7	—	1,414 14 3
St. John - -	—	—	1,329 1 11	129 18 1	203 12 6	1,662 12 6
St. Michael - -	69 18 10	337 11 7	15,356 2 3	333 19 6	70 18 6	16,168 10 8
St. Joseph - -	2 5 7	—	688 5 10	67 2 6	—	757 13 11
St. George - -	475 11 5	—	1,395 1 0	192 6 11	—	2,062 19 4
Total - -	1,066 14 11	490 12 3	27,081 1 9	1,995 18 5	279 11 5	30,913 18 9

BARBADOS. *continued.*

Parishes.	Balances due Parochial Treasurer 24th March 1876.	Expenditure.	Arrears at 24th March 1877.	Balances in hand at 24th March 1877.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Philip - -	—	2,745 0 0	53 4 0	230 11 6	3,028 15 6
St. James - -	19 3 10	1,125 15 8	—	—	1,144 19 6
St. Thomas - -	—	1,052 17 10	—	15 4 6	1,068 2 4
St. Peter - -	—	1,469 15 9	158 3 0	8 0 8	1,635 19 5
St. Andrew - -	—	887 16 5	2 6 2	9 7 7	899 10 2
St. Lucy - -	—	1,070 1 1	—	—	1,070 1 1
Christ Church -	—	1,262 3 10	—	152 10 5	1,414 14 3
St. John - -	210 7 1	1,452 5 5	—	—	1,662 12 6
St. Michael - -	—	15,839 12 1	328 18 7	—	16,168 10 8
St. Joseph - -	—	740 19 0	—	16 15 0	757 14 0
St. George - -	—	1,627 2 1	—	435 17 3	2,062 19 4
Total - -	229 10 11	29,273 9 2	542 11 9	868 6 11	30,913 18 9

The second is a recapitulation of the first table.

RECAPITULATION.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in hand at 24th March 1876 - -	1,066 14 11	Balances due parochial treasurer at 24th March 1876 - - -	229 10 11
Arrears at 24th March 1876 - - -	490 12 3	Expenditure - -	29,273 9 2
Rates and taxes, 1876–77	27,081 1 9	Total expenditure in 1876–77 -	29,503 0 1
Other revenues, 1876–77	1,995 18 5		
Total revenue in 1876–77 -	30,634 7 4	Arrears at 24th March 1877 - - -	542 11 9
Balances due parochial treasurer at 24th March 1877 - - -	279 11 5	Balance in hand at 24th March 1877 - -	868 6 11
	30,913 18 9		30,913 18 9

The third table contains the details of parochial expenditure in the year ended 24th March 1877 :—

Parishes.	Poor Relief.	Education.	Churches and Repairs.	Sanitary Purposes.	Stationery, Printing, and Law.	Capitation destroying Rats. (1*d.* each.)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Philip - -	874 5 1	79 3 0	595 7 9	—	11 8 6	15 3 7
St. James - -	343 10 0	126 18 10	318 14 1	—	—	7 5 7
St. Thomas - -	467 17 10	87 10 0	289 6 3	—	—	75 2 0
St. Peter - -	645 1 2	155 0 0	374 3 7	8 13 3	—	—
St. Andrew - -	305 15 2	139 18 0	274 15 7	—	1 0 0	39 7 7
St. Lucy - -	350 7 6	196 1 6	381 9 0	—	—	—
Christ Church -	492 10 0	246 5 0	393 15 10	—	—	—
St. John - -	797 11 6	83 6 8	352 15 11	—	17 7 5	57 6 9
St. Michael - -	5,997 8 1	515 7 6	1,311 10 9	1,202 6 6	180 12 0	23 4 9
St. Joseph - -	307 18 4	100 10 8	123 2 6	—	—	125 0 0
St. George - -	1,107 2 4	131 12 5	166 6 2	—	—	87 6 3
Total - -	11,689 7 0	1,861 13 7	4,581 7 5	1,210 19 9	210 7 11	429 16 6

continued.

Parishes.	Loans repaid.	Vestry (other than Church Officers).	Contribution to cost of Fire Brigade.	Contribution to cost of Water Supply.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Philip - -	—	216 7 5	—	—	953 4 8	2,745 0 0
St. James - -	166 13 4	71 10 11	—	—	91 2 11	1,125 15 8
St. Thomas - -	—	61 7 8	—	—	71 14 1	1,052 17 10
St. Peter - -	50 0 0	179 15 8	—	—	57 2 1	1,469 15 9
St. Andrew - -	—	72 6 6	—	—	54 13 7	887 16 5
St. Lucy - -	—	61 12 6	—	—	80 10 7	1,070 1 1
Christ Church -	—	106 2 3	—	—	23 10 9	1,262 3 10
St. John - -	—	136 3 0	—	—	7 14 2	1,452 5 5
St. Michael - -	1,041 13 4	1,262 19 4	849 16 8	2,150 3 4	1,304 9 10	15,839 12 1
St. Joseph - -	—	54 4 10	—	—	30 2 8	740 19 0
St. George - -	—	94 0 0	—	—	40 14 11	1,627 2 1
Total - -	1,258 6 8	2,316 10 1	849 16 9	2,150 3 4	2,715 0 3	29,273 9 2

The fourth table contains a statement of the local revenues and grants in aid of the highways during 1877, and shows the mileage and cost of maintenance per mile in each parish :—

RETURN of LOCAL REVENUES and GRANTS in aid of the ROADS. Total Expense, Number of Miles repaired, and Rate per Mile, for the Year 1877.

District or Parish.	Taxes.	Grant.	Total.	Miles of Roads.	Expense per Mile.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
St. Michael and Bridgetown	1,242 13 1½	2,000 0 0	3,242 13 1½	68	47 13 8½
Christ Church - -	895 16 5½	350 0 0	1,245 16 5½	60	20 15 3½
St. Philip - - -	958 8 0	250 0 0	1,208 8 0	61¼	19 11 4½
St. George - - -	740 17 3	800 0 0	1,540 17 3	45¾	33 13 7
St. John - - -	592 11 8	200 0 0	792 11 8	33	24 0 4
St. Joseph - - -	283 8 4	350 0 0	733 8 4	27	27 3 3¼
St. Andrew - - -	452 15 10	350 0 0	802 15 10	26½	30 5 10½
St. Thomas - - -	610 16 3	350 0 0	960 16 3	44½	21 11 9¾
St. James - - -	516 2 10	350 0 0	866 2 10	42	20 12 5¼
St. Peter - - -	526 15 6¼	250 0 0	776 15 6¼	30½	25 9 4
St. Lucy - - -	465 12 0	200 0 0	665 12 0	39	17 1 4
Total - - -	7,385 17 3¼	5,450 0 0	12,835 17 3¼	478	—
Average - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- -	26 17 0

31. The land rate varied from 4*s.* 6*d.* an acre in St. Michael to 1*s.* 8*d.* in Christ Church. House rents were taxed at from 2*s.* 1*d.* in the pound in St. Michael to nil in St. Thomas.

32. The trade tax is a kind of income tax assessed by the vestries on the supposed profits of the merchants and tradesmen in each parish. So far as I have been able to ascertain, no fixed rule is adhered to in assessing this tax. The profits of the firm or individual are estimated (so I am informed) by the members of the vestry, and a proportionate sum is demanded. No return of income, so far as I can ascertain is called for. The individual rated, however, has the right of appeal to the Governor in Council if dissatisfied with the assessment.

33. One thousand nine hundred and twenty-three dogs were licensed during the year. The tax amounted to 480*l.* 15*s.*, but of this amount, 96*l.* 3*s.*,—1*s.* per license—went to the parochial treasurers.

34. The salaries of parochial officers, exclusive of church officers, during the year ended 24th March 1877 amounted to

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2,316*l.*, in addition to 368*l.* commission allowed the parochial treasurers on highway collections.

35. The parochial treasurers alone received between them during the year a sum of 2,060*l.*, of which 939*l.* appears to have fallen to the share of the parochial treasurer of the parish of St. Michael.

36. While I am on this subject, I may mention that the salary of the Colonial Treasurer is fixed at 1,500*l.* per annum, and out of this he has to pay office rent clerks' salaries, and office expenses. The parochial treasurers, on the contrary, are allowed stationery, incidentals, and in the case of St. Michael's, clerical assistance.

37. 11,689*l.* was expended on poor relief during the year. Of this sum 5,997*l.* was expended in the parish of St. Michael.

38. The expenditure on poor relief is exceptionally heavy in St. Michael's. The majority of the paupers belonging to the other parishes appear to gravitate towards Bridgetown, and the ratepayers of St. Michael's have, under the present system, to bear more than their fair share of the burden. The incidence of taxation in the parish has of late been the source of a somewhat acrimonious discussion amongst the vestrymen and ratepayers. One of the vestrymen is reported to have stated at a meeting of the vestry that "the oppressive burthen of the taxes on the poorer "taxpayers was a fact that could not be denied, that every "member of the vestry was aware of it, and of the evil conse- "quences arising from it . . . . There could be no stronger "proof of the oppressive nature of the taxes than what was stated "by the parochial treasurer, that he was in the habit of issuing "1,600 executions for levy every year, although in point of fact "he had never enforced the sale of houses except in one or two "cases."

39. Be this as it may, the fact remains that the parochial revenue of the parish of St. Michael (as distinguished from highway revenue) derived from rates and taxes during the year ended 24th March 1877 amounted to 15,356*l.*, or 3,631*l.* more than the sum raised from the same source by the whole of the remaining parishes.

40. The Commission on Poor Relief whose report was laid before the Assembly on 18th December 1877, recommended a radical alteration of the present system, and it is anticipated that steps will be taken to remedy the state of things complained of with as little delay as possible.

41. A sum of 459*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* is returned as having been paid for rats killed during the year. The fee for each rat is 1*d.*; a total of 103,158 rats is thus arrived at.

42. There are 478 miles of roads in the Island. The cost of maintenance varies from 47*l.* per mile in St. Michael to 17*l.* per mile in St. Lucy. The average cost of maintenance is 26*l.* 17*s.* per mile.

43. With the exception of those in the parish of St. Michael, the roads are generally speaking a credit to the Colony.

44. The unsatisfactory state of the roads in St. Michael's is attributed to the heavy traffic which they have to carry; and the Commissioners have lately applied for an additional grant.

Public Debt.

45. The total net public debt is stated in the Blue Book at 9,176*l.* This amount is made up of the balance of a sum of 25,000*l.* borrowed in 1861 by the Bridgetown Waterworks Company, on the guarantee of the Colony, and of some small sums held on trust on behalf of certain persons, and deposited in the Colonial Bank at interest. Properly speaking the public debt amounts only to 116*l.*

Military Expenditure.

46. 57,957*l.* is set down as having been expended by Her Majesty's Government under this head in 1877. In 1876 the sum expended was 56,467*l.*, showing an increase of 1,490*l.* in 1877. The amounts are stated to be approximate, as it is difficult to state accurately the sums chargeable to each Island or Colony throughout the command.

47. The principal items are as follows:—

Items.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Regimental and staff pay - -	21,467	21,217	—	250
Provisions, transports, &c. -	20,140	21,047	907	—
Commissariat and ordnance -	5,492	4,965	—	527
Medical - - - -	2,198	2,560	362	—
Engineer department - -	4,849	5,942	1,093	—
Passages and freight - -	1,083	—	—	1,083
Total - -	55,229	55,731	2,362	1,860
		55,229	1,860	
Net increase in 1877 - -		502	502	

Works and Buildings.

48. 3,672*l.* is returned as having been expended under this head in 1877. Of this sum 200*l.* was expended on erecting two wooden dormitories at the Lunatic Asylum, and 600*l.* on erecting a water mill at the Lazaretto. The remainder of the expenditure was for repairs and maintenance of existing works and buildings, and for salaries of the dredge-master and watchman.

49. The Act constituting the Molehead Board lapsed at the close of 1876; and the usual expenditure on dredging and repair of wharf walls was not therefore incurred.

Legislation.

50. The Assembly met on 12th December 1877, and extended the operation of the Trade Acts, the Rum Duty Act, the Highways Act, and the Police Act until 31st December 1878. No other Acts were passed in 1877.

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51. Three proclamations were published during the year. One for closing certain burial grounds, one appointing a day of humiliation and prayer, and the other promulgating the Governor's Commission and Letters Patent.

Political Franchise.

52. The House of Assembly consists of 24 members, two for each of the 11 parishes, and two for the City of Bridgetown. At the last election there were 1,729 registered voters, an average of 147 to each constituency, or 73½ voters per member.

53. The constituency of Bridgetown is returned at 403, whilst that of St Andrew amounts to no more than 38.

54. In November 1875 the number of registered voters was 1,279, in November 1876, 1,664. 450 names have been added to the lists since 1875. In Bridgetown and St. Michael the increase has amounted to 277.

55. The qualification for the franchise is as follows:

Freehold estate of 12*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* annual value or leasehold of 64*l.*

Occupancy of any building in a town rated at not less than 32*l.* 1*s.* per annum.

Payment of not less than 3*l.* 5*s.* parochial taxes for two years.

Councils and Assemblies.

56. The Executive Council is constituted as follows:

The Governor.	The Colonial Secretary.
The Officer commanding the Troops.	The Attorney-General.

57. The Legislative Council at the close of 1877 was constituted as follows:

The Officer commanding the Troops.	Mr. John Griffith.
	Mr. W. B. Griffith.
The Colonial Secretary.	Mr. Thomas Kerr.
The Attorney-General.	Mr. William Manford.

58. The Assembly, which met on the 12th December 1877, is composed with one exception of the same 24 members who were returned to serve in the Assembly of 1876.

59. The duration of each Assembly is limited to one year. The meetings take place about once a week on an average, and generally last from 12 (noon) till about 4·30 or 5 p.m.

Civil Establishment.

60. The Governor-in-Chief was absent in England from 31st May to 30th November 1877, and during his absence the Government was administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of St. Vincent, who now holds a dormant commission as Lieutenant-Governor of the Windward Islands. The present Colonial Secretary entered on his duties on the 20th December 1877, his predecessor having been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago.

61. No other changes of more than trifling importance took place in the Civil Establishment during the year.

Pensions.

62. The following is the list of pensions payable from the Superannuation Fund:—

Name.	Late Office.	Annual Pension.
		£
Sir R. Bowcher Clarke, Kt.	Chief Justice	1,400
Sir John Sealy, K.C.M.G.	Attorney-General	330
J. B. Chase	Landing Surveyor	161
Rev. F. B. Grant	Rector of Christ Church	210
Rev. W. M. Payne	Rector of St. Peter's	364
William Clarke, M.D.	Surgeon of the hospitals and of Glendairy Prison	106
J. G. Alleyne	Police magistrates' clerk	70
Total		2,641

	£
63. Mr. J. G. Alleyne and Dr. Clarke were only awarded their pensions on the 1st April and 1st March 1877 respectively, and the sum actually paid out amounted to	2,593
Refunds were made to former contributors amounting to	37
Giving a total expenditure of	2,630

64. The contributions to the Superannuation Fund during the year amounted to 965*l.*, showing a deficit of 1,665*l.*

65. It will be seen that the term "Superannuation Fund" is a misnomer. In effect the pensions are paid from the general revenue, in aid of which an income tax of 4 per cent. on their salaries is levied from the public officers.

66. There are five statutory pensioners in receipt of small allowances varying from 7*l.* to 20*l.* 10*s.* per annum. The total expenditure on this account during 1877 amounted to 67*l.* 10*s.*

67. The number of police pensioners on the list for 1877 was 105. These pensioners were either ex-police officers, or the widows or children of late police officers. The pensions vary in value from 38*l.* 10*s.* to 1*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

	£
68. The amount expended in police pensions in 1877, was	1,960
Gratuities amounted to	30
	1,990
The contributions towards the Police Reward Fund, viz., stoppages of a day's pay per month per man, and fines, amounted to	530
Showing a deficiency of	1,460

which had to be supplied from the general revenue.

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Population.—Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials.

69. The population, as returned in the Blue Book, is set down at 162,042. But this is merely the return obtained by the census of 1871, including the shipping population at that time.

70. The return of baptisms and burials since 1871 is as follows:

Year.	Baptisms.	Burials.	Increase.	Add one-eighth Baptisms for Persons not belonging to the Church of England.	Total Increase.	Less by Emigration (estimated).	Net Increase.
1872	6,683	4,341	2,342	835	3,177	1,000	2,177
1873	6,540	3,316	3,224	817	4,041	1,000	3,041
1874	7,175	3,631	3,544	897	4,441	1,000	3,441
1875	5,099	4,521	578	637	1,215	1,000	215
1876	6,381	3,917	2,464	797	3,261	1,000	2,261
1877	7,071	3,810	3,261	884	4,145	1,000	3,145
Total	38,949	23,536	15,413	4,877	20,280	6,000	14,280

71. The population in 1871 (exclusive of shipping) amounted to 161,594. Add net increase during the six following years, 14,280. Estimated population in 1877, 175,874.

72. Comparing this result with the area of the Colony (166·3 square miles) it appears that the population of the Island at the close of 1877 was 1,057 to the square mile, or 1·6 to the acre.

73. The population of England and Wales at the same period may be estimated at 415 to the square mile, or ·43 to the acre.*

74. The density of the estimated population of Barbados was, therefore, at the close of 1877, 154 per cent. greater than the density of the estimated population of England and Wales at the same period.

75. The deduction made for loss due to emigration in the foregoing calculation is necessarily somewhat arbitrary; but, so far as I can ascertain, it is, if anything, in excess of the average loss due to that cause. According to the report of the Superintendent of Emigration for 1877, there is, in ordinary years only a slight excess of emigration over immigration. In 1877, an ordinary year, it was estimated at 500; in 1876 at 1,203. In 1872, a very bad year, it was estimated at 2,348. In a good year the net loss would, it appears, generally fall below 500. An average of 1,000 has been taken for the purposes of the calculation.

76. The average annual increase of the population during the six years 1872–77 was 2,381. The growth of the population received a check in 1875, in which year the excess of baptisms over burials was only 1,215. In 1876, however, the increase rose to 3,261, and in 1877 amounted to 4,145.

* England and Wales: Population, 1877, 24,547,309; acreage, 37,324,000.

77. Looking to these figures, it cannot but be regretted that the Emigration Act has been allowed to lapse, and that the new one failed to pass the House of Assembly.

78. At the present rate of increase, and supposing no outlets other than are now available to be found for the superabundant population, the inhabitants of this Colony will in 1888 number 200,000.*

79. The following is an analysis of the returns of baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1872 to 1877.

Baptisms.

1872	6,683		
1873	6,540	6,769	
1874	7,175		6,476
1875	5,099		
1876	6,381	6,183	
1877	7,071		

Marriages.

1872	656		
1873	623	623	
1874	591		633
1875	662		
1876	541	644	
1877	729		

Burials.

1872	4,341		
1873	3,316	3,762	
1874	3,361		3,855
1875	4,521		
1876	3,917	3,949	
1877	3,810		

80. The number of baptisms has not been so high as in 1877 since 1874, in which year it reached 7,175. It was in 1877 595 above the average of the six years 1872–77. The number of marriages does not appear to have any definite influence upon the number of births. In 1876 there were only 541 marriages, 92 below the average of the six years, and less than in any previous year since 1868, and although the births in 1874 were 699 above the average, the marriages in 1873 were 10 below the average. On the other hand, the marriages in 1874 were 42 below, and the baptisms in 1875 1,377 below the average. The marriages in 1877 (729) were more numerous than in any year

* The following calculation will, perhaps, best give an idea of the density of the population of Barbados. Taking the average number of persons to a house at the rate obtained by the census of 1871, viz., 5·4, the population at 175,874, and the number of miles of roads at 478, it appears that there are 32,569 houses in Barbados, and a house, on an average, every 26 yards along the roads.

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since 1871 (in which year they amounted to 757), but are still few in number in proportion to the population.

81. A comparison of the triennial averages of baptisms and burials shows a net decrease of annual excess of baptisms over burials during the last three years of the series amounting to 773. This is due to the small increase in 1875. In 1877 the excess was greater than in any year of the series except 1874.

82. The average number of burials during the last three years is 187 in excess of the average of the first three years of the series. The number of burials in 1877 was, however, 45 below the average of the six years, and the mortality has apparently been decreasing since 1875.

83. The average number of baptisms during the last three years of the series is 586 below the average of the first three years. But the number of baptisms in 1877 was 595 above the average of the six years, and the births have apparently been on the increase since 1875.

84. It is remarkable that in 1875, the most prosperous year of the series as far as the production of sugar is concerned, the mortality should have been so great and the births so few in number. In that year the baptisms were 1,377 below, and the burials 666 above the average of the six years, whilst the sugar crop for 1875 was the largest the Island has ever produced, and was 19,330 hogsheads above the average of the six years 1872–1877.

Ecclesiastical.

85. There are 11 parish churches in Barbados, 31 chapels, and 5 chapel schools, giving a total of 47 places of worship belonging to the Church of England. The ecclesiastical establishment consists of the Bishop, 11 rectors, 28 curates, and the chaplain to the estates belonging to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, besides the Chancellor and Registrar of the Diocese. The Bishop acts as Archdeacon, the Rector of St. Michael's is Dean of Bridgetown, the Rector of St. John's is Rural Dean of St. John's, and the Rector of St. Thomas' is Rural Dean of Speight's Town.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The endowment of the Church of England from the general revenue amounts to -	10,470	6	6
And the contributions for church purposes from parochial funds during the year ended 24th March 1877 amounted to -	4,581	0	0
Showing a total expenditure from public funds of - - - -	15,051	6	6

86. Each of the rectors has a house and glebe. 18 of the curates have houses, and an allowance is made by the vestries to 9 curates for house rent.

87. The accommodation afforded at the various places of worship is returned at 24,426; the attendance on Sunday mornings at 11,508, and on Sunday evenings at 10,461.

88. Allowances are made from the general revenue to other denominations as follows:—

	£	
Roman Catholic - -	50	per annum.
Wesleyans - - -	700	„
Moravians - - -	400	„

Education.

89. The schools of the Island are divided as follows:—
Elementary, including infant and primary schools, and,
Higher schools, whether endowed or state aided, sub-divided into three grades.

90. The number of *elementary* schools in connexion with the Church of England is 129. Of these 122 receive assistance from the Government; of the remaining 7, which were in 1877 "white schools," 1 is supported by endowment, 4 by vestry grants, and 2 by vestry aid and endowment jointly.

91. There are also 16 Wesleyan elementary schools, 15 of which are primary schools, and the other an infant school, and 16 Moravian elementary schools, of which 9 are primary schools and 7 infant schools. All these schools receive assistance from Government.

92. There are no Roman Catholic schools at present, but an attempt is, I am informed, about to be made to establish one.

93. The following table summarises the Blue Book returns on the subject of elementary schools:—

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Denomination.	Infant.	Primary.	Unassisted by Government. Supported by Endowment only.	Supported by Vestry only.	Supported by Vestry and Endowment.	Total.	Income. School Fees.	Endowments	Contributions from Estates.	Contributions from Vestries.	Government	Other.	Total.	Daily Attendance. Average.	Per School.	Average Income per School.	Scholar.
							£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£ s. d.	s. d.
Church of England	62	60	1	4	2	129	866	325	90	855	2,772	77	4,985	7,993	62	38 18 5	12 2
Wesleyan	1	15	—	—	—	16	134	—	—	—	414	318	873	1,073	67	54 11 5	16 3
Moravian	7	9	—	—	—	16	No return.				460	No return.					
Total -	70	84	1	4	2	161	Incomplete return.				3,646	Incomplete return.					

94. In compliance with the recommendation of the late Education Commission, a Bill has been passed through the Council and Assembly during the present year for the alteration and improvement of the educational system. It appears unneces-

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sary, therefore, to discuss at length the merits of the present system, which will probably be discarded, or radically amended, at the close of this year. It will suffice to say that the system of payment by results is in vogue. Periodical inspections of the schools are held, the children are classified by the inspector, and a premium is paid the teacher upon the inspector's report. Surprise visits are also made to each school by the inspector at least once in every quarter, for the purpose of checking the teacher's return of attendance, and a capitation allowance is paid proportionate to the average number of scholars. Every elementary school receiving Government aid is placed nominally under a committee, consisting of the minister of the district and of the denomination to which the school belongs, and two laymen, who ought to be appointed annually by the education committee on the recommendation of such minister. In many cases, however, the schools are practically under the control of the ministers, who are able to appoint or remove the teachers at pleasure.

95. Schools devoted exclusively to the education of white children, primary schools in which the attendance averages less than 30 (in the parish of St. Andrew, 20), and infant schools in which the average attendance is below 10, do not receive Government assistance.

Higher Schools.

First Grade.

96. At the commencement of 1877 there were three first grade schools in the Island:—"Harrison's College," "The Lodge," and "Pilgrim Place Middle School." The grant to the Lodge school expired in May 1877, and the school has been closed. Under the new Education Bill the Education Committee is, however, empowered to make arrangements for its reconstitution.

97. *Harrison's College* is in a prosperous state. It is well officered, and the number of boys is increasing. At present it is a day school, but it is contemplated to make arrangements for the reception of boarders. The number of pupils at the close of 1877 was 147. 2,490*l.* was expended in masters' salaries during the year, and the income of the school amounted to 3,078*l.*, of which 87*l.* was derived from the endowment, 100*l.* from the vestry, 1,791*l.* from pupils' fees, and 1,100*l.* from legislative grant.

98. *Pilgrim Place Middle School* was founded in 1855 by private benevolence. The number of pupils in 1877 was 26. 350*l.* was expended in masters' salaries, and the income of the school amounted to 384*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, of which 200*l.* was derived from legislative grant, 50*l.* from the vestry, and 134*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* from pupils' fees. Only 180*l.* out of the 200*l.* legislative grant was drawn in 1877.

Second Grade.

99. *The Seminary, St. Andrew's.*—This school labours under disadvantages, owing to its situation in a hilly and comparatively

thinly inhabited district. The number of pupils in attendance at the close of 1877 was 12. This is, however, an improvement upon 1876, when the attendance was returned at 8. The master is a graduate of Codrington College, and is curate of St. Simon's chapel.

100. *Middle School, St. Lucy's.*—The return of attendance at this school is 25. The head master, a graduate of Codrington College, receives a salary of 200*l.* a year, and the Education Committee allow the school a sum not exceeding 100*l.* for 15 exhibitions of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* annual value.

Third Grade.

101. *Central Schools.*—These schools were originally established in 1825 for the education of "poor whites." This object, however, was abandoned, and in 1859 the schools were reconstituted with the object of forming training schools for teachers of both sexes. As training schools, however, they cannot be regarded as a success, and other provisions have been made in the new Education Bill for the purpose of providing properly trained school masters and mistresses.

102. At the close of 1877 there were 69 boys and 74 girls attending the Central Schools. The head master of the school receives 200*l.* a year, and the head mistress 100*l.*, besides allowances, and an assistant 25*l.*

103. The income of the schools in 1877 amounted to 1,035*l.* 10*s.* of which 800*l.* is derived from a legislative grant, 129*l.* 2*s.* from endowment, and 106*l.* 8*s.* from school fees.

Imports and Exports.

104. The values of the imports and exports for the last three years were as follows:—

Total value of imports:

	£
1875 - - - -	1,187,493
1876 - - - -	1,027,881
1877 - - - -	1,144,313

Total value of exports:

	£
1875 - - - -	1,474,910
1876 - - - -	964,262
1877 - - - -	1,097,912

105. In 1877, the imports show an increase of 11, and the exports of 13 per cent., as compared with 1876.

106. The increase in the exports in 1877 as compared with 1876 was 133,650*l.*

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107. This increase may be accounted for as follows:—

	£	£
Staple crop:		
Molasses, 1877 - - -	142,398	
„ 1876 - - -	108,015	
Increase - - -	-	34,383
Rum, 1877 - - -	152	
„ 1876 - - -	7	
Increase - - -	-	145
Sugar, 1877 - - -	705,907	
„ 1876 - - -	567,723	
Increase - - -	-	128,174
Total increase due to staple crop -	-	162,702

Other articles (re-exports):

	£	£	£	
Flour, 1876 -	74,701			
„ 1877 -	52,321			
Decrease -	-	22,380		
Guano, 1876 -	21,010			
„ 1877 -	12,300			
Decrease -	-	8,710		
Total decrease	-		31,090	
Butter, 1876 -	7,171			
„ 1877 -	9,190			
Increase -	-	-	2,019	
Net decrease -	-	-		29,071
Net increase -	-	-		133,631

108. There are small fluctuations in other articles of export, viz., corn, corn-meal, dried and pickled fish, lard, rice, &c., which balance each other.

109. The following is a statement of the quantities and value of the articles derived from the staple crop during 1877, showing the direction of the export:—

Countries.	Sugar.		Rum.		Molasses.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	hhds.	£	gals.	£	puns.	£
United Kingdom -	31,823	477,345	—	—	22	99
United States -	14,377	215,662	—	—	23,177	104,297
British North America	914	13,703	15	1	8,297	37,336
British West Indies -	—	—	—	—	91	410
New Granada -	4	60	—	—	—	—
Bermuda - -	139	2,092	—	—	48	216
West Coast, Africa -	3	45	2,021	151	9	40
Total - -	47,260	705,907	2,036	152	31,644	142,398

110. The following table shows the quantities and value of the same articles exported during the last three years, exclusive of re-exports :—

Years.	Sugar.		Rum.		Molasses.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	hhds.	£	gals.	£	puns.	£	£
1875	65,012	975,239	1,808	135	176,168	39,173	1,151,541
1876	37,848	567,723	103	7	108,015	24,001	675,745
1877	47,260	705,907	2,036	152	142,398	31,644	848,357

111. The remaining exports of articles the produce or manufacture of the Colony were as follows (1876 is compared with 1877):—

Exports.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Aloes	712	714	2	—
Arrowroot	30	114	84	—
Bones	11	22	11	—
Cigars	—	72	72	—
Casks, &c.	472	1,187	715	—
Cotton and seed	128	160	32	—
Fruit, &c.	1,334	3,026	1,692	—
Furniture	—	160	160	—
Ginger (green)	62	56	—	6
Groceries	111	243	132	—
Hides	1,378	363	—	1,015
Limestone and lime	3,078	4,933	1,855	—
Matches	890	1,158	268	—
Whale oil	1,227	1,108	—	119
Petroleum	3,435	2,424	—	1,011
Spirits	5	—	—	5
Sugar	—	3	3	—
Tamarinds	733	987	254	—
Total	13,606	16,730	5,280	2,156
		13,606	2,156	
Net increase in 1877		3,124	3,124	

112. The principal increases are in fruit and lime. The increase in the export of fruit was probably due to the drought in British Guiana, which reduced the supply of homegrown fruit in that Colony. The increase in the export of lime was probably due to the fall in the price of coal in 1877. Demerara will, I am informed, take all the lime that can be sold at a certain price, and the fall in the price of coal afforded increased facilities for profitable production.

113. The increase in the export of both fruit and lime was in the direction of Demerara.

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114. The principal decreases are in petroleum and hides.

115. The decrease in the export of petroleum is, I am informed, due to the difficulties that have been encountered in keeping the wells clear, and to a falling-off in the natural supply of oil.

116. The decrease in the export of hides cannot be satisfactorily accounted for. It may, possibly, be due to irregularity in reporting such exports at the Custom House; if so, the decrease is nominal.

117. It appears from the foregoing tables that the exports for the years 1876 and 1877 may be divided as follows:—

Exports.	1876.		1877.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Produce of the Colony:—				
Staple - - -	675,745	70·	848,357	77·2
Other - - -	13,606	1·4	16,730	1·4
Re-exports - - -	274,911	28·6	232,825	21·4
Totals -	964,262	100·	1,097,912	100·

118. As compared with the population, the trade for 1877 was as follows:—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports per Head.	Exports per Head.	Trade per Head.	Estimated Population, 1877.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
United Kingdom - -	440,915	484,755	925,670	2 10 1	2 15 2	5 5 3	
British Possessions - -	169,194	261,044	430,238	19 3	1 9 8	2 8 11	175,874
Foreign countries - -	534,204	352,113	886,317	3 0 9	2 0 0	5 0 9	
Totals - - -	1,144,313	1,097,912	2,242,225	6 10 1	6 4 10	12 14 11	

119. The direction of trade during the last three years is shown in the two following tables:—

IMPORTS.

Countrles.	Value.			Per-centage.		
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£			
United Kingdom -	443,091	392,711	440,915	37·3	38·2	38·5
British Possessions -	159,982	137,226	169,194	13·4	13·3	14·
Foreign Countries -	584,420	497,934	534,204	49·3	48·5	47·5
Totals - -	1,187,493	1,027,871	1,144,313	100·	100·	100·

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Value.			Per-centage.		
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£			
United Kingdom -	782,434	458,669	484,755	53·	47·5	44·1
British Possessions -	388,913	319,033	261,044	20·5	33·1	23·9
Foreign Countries -	303,563	186,560	352,113	27·5	19·4	32·
Total - -	1,474,910	964,262	1,097,912	100·	100·	100·

120. It will be observed that the per-centage of imports from the United Kingdom has been slowly increasing, and that from foreign countries slowly decreasing during the last three years.

121. A considerable proportion of the export trade was diverted in 1877 from Great Britain and the British Possessions to the United States. The amount of sugar exported to the United States in 1877 was 109·6 per cent. in excess of the amount exported thither in 1876, as follows:—

1877 - - -	14,473	hogsheads.
1876 - - -	6,903	„
Increase - -	7,570	„

122. The year 1877 may be described as having been better than the average. The prosperity of the Island depends upon the success of the staple crop, and the crop of 1877 was 1,012 hogsheads in excess of the average of the 10 previous years.

Shipping.

123. In 1877 there was an increase in the number as well as in the size of the British vessels. There was a decrease in the number of foreign vessels, but the tonnage was in excess of the foreign tonnage for 1876.

124. The British vessels averaged 16 tons larger than in 1875 and 1876:—

ENTERED INWARDS.

——	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
Number:—				
British - - -	1,137	969	972	1,026
Foreign - - -	236	230	213	226
Total - -	1,373	1,199	1,185	1,252
Tonnage:—				
British - - -	152,579	130,304	146,635	143,173
Foreign - - -	52,780	44,231	45,759	47,590
Total - -	205,359	174,535	192,394	190,763

—	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
Average tonnage :—				
British - -	134	134	150	139
Foreign - - -	223	192	214	209
Total - -	149	145	162	152

125. The tonnage of vessels arriving in ballast was greater, and of those clearing in ballast smaller, than in 1876. This may be accounted for by the short crop of 1876. The following table affords a comparison for the last three years :—

BALLAST.

—	Number.				Tonnage.				Average Tonnage.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
Inwards :—												
British -	153	101	100	118	25,181	12,940	19,594	19,238	164	128	195	163
Foreign -	21	20	9	16	3,554	3,693	1,984	3,077	169	184	220	191
Total -	174	121	109	134	28,735	16,633	21,578	22,315	165	137	197	166
Outwards :—												
British -	99	92	80	90	17,596	16,215	14,854	16,221	177	176	185	180
Foreign -	87	86	68	80	23,410	20,772	18,356	20,846	268	241	269	260
Total -	186	178	148	170	41,006	36,987	33,210	37,067	226	207	224	218

125*a*. It will be seen that the proportion of foreign tonnage cleared in ballast is much greater than the proportion of foreign tonnage entered in ballast.

126. With respect to cargo, the converse is the case.

CARGO.

—	Number.				Tonnage.				Average Tonnage.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
Inwards :—												
British -	984	868	872	908	127,398	117,364	127,041	123,934	129	135	145	136
Foreign -	215	210	204	209	49,226	40,538	43,775	44,513	228	193	214	212
Total -	1,199	1,078	1,076	1,117	176,624	157,902	170,816	168,447	147	146	158	150
Outwards :—												
British -	1,050	878	883	937	135,813	114,061	129,735	126,536	129	129	146	135
Foreign -	142	146	146	145	26,998	25,153	26,818	26,323	183	172	183	180
Total -	1,192	1,024	1,029	1,082	162,811	139,214	156,553	152,859	136	135	152	141

127. The average tonnage of British vessels entering and clearing in ballast is greater than the average tonnage of such vessels entering and clearing with cargo. The average tonnage of foreign ships with cargo inwards is greater than the average tonnage of such vessels entered in ballast; while the average tonnage of foreign ships clearing in ballast exceeds the average tonnage of such ships clearing with cargo.

Thus:—

Inwards:

Average tonnage of British ships in ballast	-	163
" " " with cargo	-	136
		27
Average tonnage of foreign ships with cargo	-	212
" " " in ballast	-	191
		21

Outwards:

Average tonnage of British ships in ballast	-	180
" " " with cargo		135
		45
Average tonnage of foreign ships in ballast	-	260
" " " with cargo	-	180
		80

128. The explanation of this result is probably as follows:—
The small inter-colonial craft, which sail, for the most part, under the British flag, are generally entered and cleared with cargo; while many of the larger British ships come to Barbados from the Cape, Madeira, the South American ports, and sometimes from one or other of the Coolie importing Colonies, in ballast, seeking cargo. Large foreign ships seldom come to Barbados "seeking," and those which come with cargo do not it appears, have the same opportunities as British ships of securing outward freight.

129. The following table affords a further illustration of the direction of trade during the last three years:—

Cargo only.	1875.		1876.		1877.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Entered from—						
United Kingdom - ..	114	57,615	109	59,555	107	63,297
British North American Colonies - - -	151	23,350	112	16,357	108	16,965
British West Indies and British Guiana - -	639	33,902	509	31,347	602	36,342
Other British Possessions ..	7	655	7	478	8	1,316
United States of America -	187	45,041	164	37,795	168	41,146
French West Indies - -	48	2,385	56	4,568	42	2,759
Whaling - - -	9	1,377	14	2,942	6	899
Other - - -	44	12,299	27	4,860	35	8,092
Total - -	1,199	176,624	1,078	157,902	1,076	170,816

Cargo only.	1875.		1876.		1877.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Cleared to—						
United Kingdom - -	107	39,105	66	24,445	67	24,445
British North American Colonies - - -	67	10,680	46	6,828	39	5,698
British West Indies and British Guiana - -	801	67,806	747	67,659	710	76,214
Other British Possessions -	5	309	5	317	7	495
United States of America -	90	18,179	47	9,114	99	22,704
French West Indies - -	86	11,231	84	14,271	76	10,984
Whaling - - -	1	273	3	613	2	252
Other - - -	35	15,228	26	15,967	29	15,761
Total - -	1,192	162,811	1,024	139,214	1,029	156,553

130. The per-centage of tonnage entered and cleared with cargo from and to each country was as follows :—

—	Inwards.				Outwards.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
To and from—								
United Kingdom -	32	37	37	35	24	17	15	19
British North American Colonies -	13	10	10	11	6	5	3	5
British West Indies and British Guiana	19	20	21	20	42	49	48	46
United States of America - -	25	24	24	24	11	6	14	10
French West Indies -	1	3	1	2	7	10	7	8
Peru - -	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Venezuela - -	—	—	—	—	8	11	9	9
Other - -	7	6	5	6	2	2	4	3
Total -	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

131. The tonnage inwards from Peru represents the importations of guano. That outwards to Venezuela does not represent a commensurate export. It is referable to the West India and Pacific Company's steamers, which call here once a month on their way to La Guayra and other ports in the Spanish Main.

132. The proportions of gross tonnage, British, American, and other, during the last three years were as follows:—

Nationality.	Per-centage.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
British - - -	74	74	76	75
United States of America -	18	21	19	19
Other - - - -	8	5	5	6
Total - -	100	100	100	100

133. The five per cent. atttributed to "other nations" in 1877 was divided as follows:—

Nationality.	Per-centage.
French - - - -	20
German - - -	18
Swedish - - -	22
Dutch - - - -	21
Other - - - -	19
Total -	100

134. The proportion of British tonnage employed was two per cent. greater in 1877 than in 1876, whilst the American tonnage suffered a proportionate decrease.

135. The number of seamen employed was as follows:—

—	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average.
Inwards - - -	10,394	9,441	9,639	9,825
Outwards - -	10,440	9,511	9,629	9,860

Proper provision for the accommodation of sailors, such as a "Seamen's Home," or a properly regulated system of licensed boarding-houses, is much wanted in Bridgetown. Seamen suffering from illness are accommodated at the General Hospital.

Agriculture.

136. The agricultural returns are of too meagre a nature to furnish data for any conclusions of value.

137. It appears that there are 106,470 acres of land in the Colony, 100,000 acres of which are under cultivation, and 6,470 uncultivated.

138. Prædial wages are returned at 10*d.* a day, and task-work at from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*

Prices.

139. The following return, the result of special inquiries made a short time since with a view of ascertaining the relative cost of living in Barbados and in British Guiana, may prove of interest.

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140. A calculation based on the figures of the return places the cost of living in Georgetown about 50 per cent. above the cost of living in Bridgetown.

TABLE of COMPARISON between HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES at BRIDGETOWN and GEORGETOWN.

Head of Expense.	Per.	At Bridgetown.		At Georgetown.		Higher at Georgetown.	
		From	To	From.	To	Difference.	Per cent.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
House for small family.	Month -	4 3 4	6 5 0	8 6 8	13 10 10	5 14 7	110
General servants, each	„ -	1 5 0	1 13 4	2 1 8	2 10 0	16 7	57
Housemaids and nurses (board and lodging found).	„ -	12 6	16 8	1 5 0	1 9 2	12 6	85·71
Beef, Creole (very tough at Georgetown).	Pound -	10	10	10	10	—	—
Beef, American -	„ -	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	—	—
Mutton - -	„ -	10	1 0	1 4	1 8	7	63·63
Poultry - - -	Each -	2 2	2 2	2 2	2 2	—	—
Clothing - -	A quantum	16 10 0	26 0 0	20 0 0	30 0 0	3 15 0	17·44
Milk - - -	Pint - -	1½	1½	4	4	2½	166·66
Bread - - -	Pound -	3	3	4	4	1	33·33
Eggs - - -	Dozen -	10	1 0	1 4	1 4	5	45·45
Brandy - - -	„ -	1 2 6	1 16 0	2 10 0	3 2 6	1 7 0	92·30
Beer, pints - -	„ -	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 6	—	—
Horses - - -	Each -	40 0 0	52 1 8	41 13 4	72 18 4	11 5 0	24·43
Waggons - -	Day - -	10 0	12 6	16 8	16 8	5 5	48·14
Oats - - -	160 pounds	16 8	1 0 0	1 2 11	1 2 11	4 7	25·
Bran - - -	80 „ -	4 2	4 2	4 2	4 2	—	—
Hay (in trusses) -	Pound -	1	1½	1½	4½	1½	130·
Grass - - -	25 pounds -	3	3	4	4	1	33·33
Hotel (board and lodging).	Month -	8 6 8	8 6 8	9 7 6	9 7 6	1 0 10	12·50

Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

141. There are some oil wells in the parish of St. Andrew. These wells yielded in 1877 808 barrels, or 32,300 gallons of crude oil, valued at 2,424*l.* The return for 1876 shows 45,800 gallons, valued at 3,435, a decrease in 1877 of 13,500 gallons, or 1,011*l.* This decrease has been accounted for under "Exports."

142. The number of sugar works is returned at about 500.

143. Fish are abundant, but there are no regular fisheries, except a whaling station at Speightstown.

Gaols and Prisons.

144. The following is a list of the Barbados prisons:—

Name of Prison.	For	Accommodation.	System.
Glendairy :	Males.		
Upper prison -	- - -	72	Separate cells.
Lower prison -	- - -	198	Associated.
District "A" - -	Females -	70	Associated.
District "B" - -	Males - -	55	Associated.
District "C" - -	Females -	75	Associated.
District "D" - -	Juveniles -	70	Associated.
Total accommodation -		540	

145. The daily average of prisoners during 1877 was 315.

146. The average amount of cubic space available for each prisoner during the hours of sleep was as follows :—

	Cubic Feet.	
Glendairy - - -	847	563, average.
District "A" - -	400	
" "B" - -	418	
" "C" - -	618	
" "D" - -	536	

147. Glendairy is situated about a mile and a half from Bridgetown. The upper prison, which was erected in 1855, is on the "separate cell" principle, and contains accommodation for 72. It is, in many respects, a model building. The lower prison contains 46 rooms, of which 40 are small and accommodate three prisoners each. In each of the remaining six rooms there is space for about 15 persons.

148. District "A" Prison, attached to the police station on Station-house Hill, near Glendairy, is used as the principal prison for females. It is on the associated system. The buildings cannot be regarded as being well adapted to prison purposes; untried prisoners and those detained for want of sureties have at times to be associated with convicts. Systematic classification is impossible, and, owing to the nature of the accommodation, proper discipline cannot be enforced.

149. District "B" Prison consists of two large rooms in a yard attached to the police station at Boarded Hall, about five miles from Bridgetown. The rooms are airy, and, so far, are an improvement upon the accommodation at District "A." The prison is healthy, but is open to the usual objections against the associated system. It is used as an auxiliary prison to Glendairy.

150. District "C" Female Prison is built in a yard attached to the police station near Moncrieffe, about 10 miles from Bridgetown. The situation is elevated and healthy. But the prison is on the associated system, and is open to objections similar to those mentioned with respect to District "A," though not, perhaps, to the same extent.

151. District "D" Juvenile Prison is attached to the St. Thomas' Police Station, about eight miles from Bridgetown. It consists of one large room and three separate cells, which were used for purposes of punishment when male adults were confined in the prison. The situation of the gaol is healthy, but want of adequate separate accommodation interferes with the due enforcement of discipline.

152. It is not necessary to dwell in this report upon the evil of the associated system. Its effects upon the discipline of the prisons, as well as on the characters and general behaviour of the prisoners, have been so often pointed out that it would be superfluous to do more than allude to them.

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153. The comparative table inserted in the Appendix to the prison section of the Blue Book shows a decrease of 900 committals as compared with 1876. This decrease is almost entirely in male prisoners. The decrease in females amounts to six. It is to be observed also that the committals to "Penal Imprisonment" show a decrease of not more than 31. The remainder of the decrease is due partly to the closing of the Town Hall Gaol, and the consequent virtual abolition of imprisonment for debt, which accounts for 464, and partly to the decrease in imprisonments for safe custody and want of sureties, which amounts to 405. The decrease in the last category is probably due to the arrests made in connexion with the riots in 1876.

154. The expenditure on the prisons during 1877 amounted to 7,885*l.*, or 6*l.* more than in 1876.

The principal items are as follows :—

	£
Salaries - - - - -	2,742
Provisions - - - -	2,744
Clothing - - - - -	227
Hospital expenses - - -	380
Furniture - - - -	386
Repairs - - - - -	544
Miscellaneous - - - -	211
Uniforms - - - - -	247
Laying on water at Glendairy - -	218
	7,699

155. The Blue Book does not contain the usual full report by the Inspector of Prisons. In February of this year the Colony suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Watts, the late Inspector, an energetic and useful officer who had more than once received the thanks of the Colonial Department for the interest which he evinced in the prisons of the Colony, as well as for his valuable reports on their condition.

156. At the time the criminal statistics were completed, the officer who now fills Mr. Watts' post had not had sufficient experience of the working of the prisons of the Island to justify him in making an elaborate report.

Criminal Statistics.

157. The following table, like that which accompanied the Report on Crime forwarded on 28th September last, shows the proportionate number of offences, &c. per thousand of the estimated population, and contains a statement of the increase or decrease under each head as compared with 1876, and as compared with the four years 1874–77.

158. The table does not include the statistics of the special session held by Judge Phillips in 1876, nor those of the commission of magistrates appointed to hold the preliminary investigations of the cases arising out of the riots which took place in that year.

It has been thought that the introduction of this element would, having regard to the abnormal state of the Colony at the time, tend to vitiate any general conclusion it might be possible to draw from the return.

159. In the estimates of population on which the September table was based, no allowance was made for loss by emigration. The comparison of the per-centages and the general conclusions arrived at are not, however, affected by the introduction of this function into the present calculations.

Offences reported to the Police.

160. The number of offences reported to the police in 1877 was 52 below the average of the four years 1874–77, and 191 above the number reported in 1876, 26 above the number for 1875, and 424 below the number for 1874.

Persons apprehended or summoned.

161. The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates in 1877 was 901 above the average, and 2,080 above the number for 1876. The number of apprehensions and summonses for 1876 was 1,179 below the average. The apprehensions arising out of the riots are not included in the table.

Offences against the Person.

162. The number of convictions before the magistrates for offences against the person shows a steady increase during the last four years both actually and relatively to the estimated population. The same may be said of the convictions for these offences in the Superior Court. In 1877 there were 305 more convictions in the magistrates' courts for offences of this nature than in 1876, whilst the number of convictions in 1877 was 366 above the average. In the superior courts the convictions for offences of this nature in 1877 amounted to nearly three times the number of convictions for similar offences in 1874, and were 16 above the average of the four years. Referred to the estimated population in each year, the number of convictions for offences against the person in the magistrates' courts in 1877 shows an increase of 1·88 per thousand of the population, as compared with the average, and of 1·53 per thousand as compared with 1876.

Prædial Larceny.

163. The number of convictions for prædial larceny before the magistrates in 1877 was 15 below the average of the four years, and 96 above the number of convictions in 1876. It should be borne in mind, however, that a good deal of wholesale prædial larceny was committed in 1876, and that the offenders were in many cases convicted on other and more serious charges at the special sessions, a *nolle prosequi* being entered for the minor offence. The number of convictions for offences of this nature in the

Criminal Statistics.—Analytical Table.

	Actual Numbers.					Per 1,000 of Population.*					Difference, 1876 and 1877. Actual Number.		Difference, 1876 and 1877. Per 1,000.		Difference from Average. Actual Number.		Difference from Average. Per 1,000.	
	Average during last 4 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average during last 4 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
The number of offences reported to the police	4,808	5,190	4,740	4,575†	4,766	27·96	30·48	27·80	26·48	29·09	191	—	·61	—	—	52	—	·87
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates	8,222	8,056	8,666	7,043†	9,123	47·68	47·31	50·83	40·77	51·81	2,080	—	11·04	—	901	—	4·13	—
The number of summary convictions:—																		
1. For offences against the person	1,932	1,643	1,790	1,993	2,298	11·18	9·65	10·50	11·53	13·06	305	—	1·53	—	366	—	1·88	—
2. For praedial larceny	869	897	909	788	884	5·04	5·26	5·33	4·56	5·02	96	—	·46	—	15	—	—	·02
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny	442	480	537	334	418	2·56	2·81	3·15	1·93	2·37	84	—	·44	—	—	24	—	·19
4. For other offences	2,632	2,879	3,351	1,520	2,779	15·28	16·91	19·65	8·79	15·80	1,259	—	7·01	—	147	—	·52	—
Total summary convictions	5,875	5,899	6,587	4,635	6,379	34·09	34·64	38·63	26·83	36·27	1,744	—	9·44	—	504	—	2·18	—
The number of convictions in the superior courts:—																		
1. For offences against the person	41	21	35	50	57	·23	·12	·21	·29	·32	7	—	·03	—	16	—	·09	—
2. For praedial larceny	16	11	14	28	10	·09	·06	·08	·16	·05	—	18	—	·09	—	6	—	·04
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny	41	23	35	52	57	·24	·13	·21	·30	·32	5	—	·02	—	16	—	·08	—
4. For other offences	18	27	3	26	15	·10	·16	·01	·15	·08	—	11	—	·07	—	3	—	·02
Total convictions in superior courts	116	82	87	156‡	139	·66	·48	·51	·90	·78	—	17	—	·12	23	—	·12	—

	Actual Numbers.					Per-centage in Gross Number of Cases.					Difference, 1876 and 1877. Actual Number.		Difference, 1876 and 1877. Per-centage of Cases.		Difference from Average. Actual Number.		Difference from Average. Per-centage of Cases.	
	Average during last 4 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Average during last 4 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
The number of persons acquitted:—																		
1. In the inferior courts	2,171	1,864	1,989	2,218	2,622	27·32	24·01	23·19	32·07	29·13	4·04	—	—	2·94	4·51	—	1·81	—
2. In the superior courts	33	13	16	38§	64	20·08	13·68	15·53	19·58	31·52	·26	—	11·94	—	·31	—	11·44	—

* Population, 1871 - Census - 162,042.
„ 1874 - Estimate - 170,253.
„ 1875 - „ - 170,468.
„ 1876 - „ - 172,729.
„ 1877 - „ - 175,874.

† Not including 447 persons summoned before a special commission in 1876, of whom 57 were discharged, 115 bailed, and 275 committed for trial.

‡ This does not include the number of convictions at the special sessions of 1876, viz., 156.

§ This does not include the number of acquittals at the special sessions of 1876, viz., 778.

superior courts in 1877 was lower than in any of the previous years included in the return, six below the average, and 18 less than the number of convictions in 1876. Prædial larceny may, it seems, be said to show a tendency to decrease.

Other Offences against Property.

164. The number of convictions before the magistrates for offences against property, other than praedial larceny, during 1877 was 24 below the average, and 84 above the number of convictions in 1876. But regard should be had to the fact that a large number of persons charged with these offences in 1876 were sent to the special sessions for trial. In the superior court the number of convictions for offences of this character in 1877 was 16 above the average, and 5 above the number of convictions in 1876. Here again it is necessary to bear in mind that 50 convictions before Judge Phillips for offences against property other than praedial larceny are not included in the 1876 return. It cannot be denied, however, that serious offences of this nature were in 1877 of abnormal frequency. The number of convictions in the superior court for 1877 was only 1 less than the sum of the convictions for 1874 and 1875. In the magistrates' courts, on the other hand, the number of convictions for these offences was less than the numbers in either 1874 or 1875. This may perhaps be considered to point to the conclusion that petty theft tends to decrease, whilst the graver offences against property tend in the opposite direction. But in view of the fact that until a few months ago magistrates had no jurisdiction in cases of embezzlement or of obtaining money under false pretences, no matter how small in value the *corpus delicti* might be, it would seem premature to hazard a definite opinion on this point without more precise information.

Other Offences.

165. Convictions by magistrates for "other offences," which include offences against the Master and Servant Acts, against Highway Acts, Health Acts, &c., were, in 1877, 147 above the average, and 1,259 above the number recorded for 1876. In the superior court they were 3 below the average, and 11 below the number for 1876 (exclusive of the number of convictions before Judge Phillips).

Convictions in General.

166. In the magistrates' courts the number of convictions for 1877 was actually 504, and relatively 2·18 per thousand of the estimated population, above the average. There were 1,744 more convictions in 1877 than in 1876, 680 more than in 1874, and 208 less than in 1875. In comparison with the estimated population, however, the result for 1877 is more satisfactory than the results either for 1874 or for 1875. In the superior court the number of convictions for 1877 was 23 above the average, and 17 less than in 1876 (exclusive of the 156 convictions before

Judge Phillips). Leaving 1876 out of the calculation as abnormal, it appears, however, that the sum of the convictions for 1874 and 1875 amounts to a number only 30 greater than the number of convictions for 1877 alone.

167. A conclusion similar to that indicated in the case of convictions for offences against property other than prædial larceny, viz., that minor offences do not on the whole tend to increase, while the more serious offences tend to multiply faster than the population, might perhaps be drawn from the facts referred to. It is due, however, to Barbados to state that many of the cases disposed of in the superior court here are not of a character sufficiently grave to be dealt with at assizes in England. There were more than 50 cases at the last August sessions, but of so (comparatively) trifling a character that the Chief Justice did not think it necessary to deliver, as is usual, a written charge to the grand jury.

Acquittals.

168. The number of acquittals in the magisterial courts in 1877 was 451 above the average, and 404 above the number in 1876. In proportion to the total number of cases the number of acquittals in these courts in 1877 was 1·81 per cent. above the average, and 2·94 below the per-centage for 1876. The proportion of acquittals to convictions in 1876 would appear to indicate either that the magistrates were during 1876 unusually lenient or that an unusually large number of accusations were made on frivolous grounds. In the superior court there is a large increase in the number of acquittals in 1877 as compared with the total number of cases.

169. *General Conclusions.*

1. Offences against the person have been steadily increasing during the last four years.

2. Prædial larceny appears to show a tendency to decrease.

3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny, so far as they come within the jurisdiction of the magistrates, show a tendency to decrease. So far as they are beyond the jurisdiction of the magistrates they appear to show a tendency to increase to a somewhat serious extent.

4. "Other offences" cannot, it seems, be said to tend definitely either to increase or decrease.

5. Crime, generally, appears somewhat on the increase, but, so far as it comes within the jurisdiction of the magistrates, seems almost stationary. It should be borne in mind that the magistrates have until lately had no jurisdiction in cases of embezzlement or of false pretences; that there is no intermediate court here corresponding to the district courts in Jamaica or to the courts of quarter sessions in England, and that as a general rule the cases before the superior courts are not of so grave a character as the generality of assize cases in England.

Cane Fires.

170. From the accompanying return of cane fires in 1876, 1877, and 1878 it will be seen that the number of acres burnt has steadily increased during the last three years. The motives for the crime are probably as follows:—

(1.) Revenge for some real or fancied injury.

(2.) A desire to hasten on the cutting of the canes, and thus provide work.

(3.) A desire to destroy the trash which delays the work of cutting. A labourer can, other things being equal, make much more at piece-work cutting burnt canes than by cutting canes which are untouched by fire.

(4.) Pure mischief.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of ACRES of CANES destroyed by FIRE in the ISLAND OF BARBADOS.

Parish.	1876.	1877.	1878, to 30th June.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
St. Michael - -	71	29	43½	143½
St. Philip - -	38¾	88¼	134	261
St. John - -	20¼	48	92¾	161
St. George - -	60¾	92½	58½	211¾
Christ Church - -	11¾	38¾	71	131½
St. Thomas - -	33½	9¾	39½	82¾
St. James - -	10½	31¾	7¼	49¼
St. Peter - -	11¼	29¾	20½	61½
St. Lucy - -	23¾	22	42½	88¼
St. Andrew - -	17¾	9	11	37¾
St. Joseph - -	7¾	27¾	17½	53
	307	426½	538	1,271½

171. It should be added that a considerable number of the cane fires which take place are due to carelessness on the part of the workmen or to accident.

172. The loss caused by a cane fire consists almost wholly in the destruction of the "trash," which would otherwise be used for dressing the crop of the following year or as litter for manure. If the canes can be cut and ground without delay, the loss in the article of sugar is but small. Sometimes when a large area of canes is burnt, it is difficult to cut and grind them all in time, and a certain loss of sugar is the result. Under any circumstances the planter is put to considerable inconvenience.

173. It is difficult to bring a charge of cane burning home to the offender. A rag steeped in petroleum set to smoulder in the "stool" of one of the plants is sufficient to cause a conflagration. The fire can be "set" easily, and without attracting notice, and does not break out for some time after the rag is placed among the canes. By the time the conflagration attracts notice the offender may be a mile away, or perhaps accompanies his friends to the fire and shares their enjoyment of the spectacle. Rewards

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of considerable value have, I am informed, been from time to time offered for the discovery of offenders of this class, but invariably without success. During the present year a cane-fire assurance society has been in course of formation for the purpose of guaranteeing the owners of burnt canes against loss. The promoters of this association hope that when it is known among the labouring population that a cane fire does not involve pecuniary loss to the owner of the canes, this mode of annoyance, at all events, will cease to be adopted.

Hospitals and Asylums.

174. The General Hospital has accommodation for 245 patients. The daily average number of patients in the establishment during 1877 was 220. 929 males and 663 females were admitted during the year—1,592 altogether. There were 219 patients in hospital at the end of 1876; 1,405 were discharged during the year, and 166 died, leaving 240 in hospital at the end of 1877. Of the 1,405 discharged, 997 were cured, 320 relieved, and 98 "not improved." Of the 166 who died, 41, or 24·7 per cent., died of phthisis, and 20, or 12 per cent., of heart disease.

175. The following selection has been made from the return of cases treated:—

SELECTION from the RETURN of CASES treated.

Nature of Case.	Number of Cases treated.	Deaths.	Per-centage of Total Deaths.	Per-centage of Cases.
Ulcers - - -	207	7	4·2	3·3
Burns, injuries, &c. -	204	9	5·4	4·4
Anæmia - - -	140	7	4·2	5·
Phthisis - - -	127	41	24·7	32·3
Rheumatism - -	74	1	·6	1·3
Cardiac - - -	61	20	12·	32·6
Abscesses - -	50	2	1·2	4·
Debility - - -	42	5	2·1	11·9
Pneumonia - -	15	6	3·6	40·
Cancer - - -	14	6	3·6	42·9
Typhoid fever - -	10	5	2·1	50·
Tetanus - - -	9	7	4·2	77·8

176. Three cases of starvation, of which two ended fatally, were also treated during the year.

177. The control and management of the General Hospital is vested in a Board of Trustees and Directors, of which the Governor is *ex officio* chairman, and composed of the Crown law officers, of certain members of the Legislature, and of private subscribers to the institution. A single donation of 20*l.*, or five annual and successive donations of 5*l.*, qualify for a life directorship. A single donation of 5*l.* qualifies the donor as director for one year. A sum of 6,630*l.* is set apart annually from the general revenue

towards the maintenance of the hospital; the accounts are passed by the Board of Trustees and Directors, and are laid before the Assembly once in each quarter.

178. The Board of Trustees and Directors meets about four times a year. A house committee, selected from the members of the Board, meets about once a month, and is invested with the immediate supervision of the institution.

179. The medical staff consists of a resident house surgeon, and three visiting physicians.

180. The sanitary arrangements of the hospital are not altogether satisfactory. It is right to say that every effort has of late been made to place them on a better footing. During the present year 715*l.* has been expended on some baths and on a system of earth closets. It is stated, however, that there are still some difficulties to be overcome.

181. The Bridgetown Lock Hospital has accommodation for 50 patients. A sum of 1,035*l.* was expended on this institution during 1877, of which 625*l.* was contributed by the Imperial Government. The management of the hospital is in the hands of a board consisting of two members of the Legislative Council, and three members of Assembly.

182. The Leper Asylum is about four miles from Bridgetown, in a healthy situation on the south-western coast of the Island, about 90 feet above the sea. Accommodation is provided for 76 patients—38 males and 38 females.

183. The number of lepers in Barbados has recently been estimated at 131—72 males and 59 females.

184. The asylum is always full, and the insufficiency of the accommodation has been recognised for some time past. It should be stated, however, that the accommodation, so far as it goes, is good, although the cubical space available for each patient is not by any means up to the mark.

185. The following figures are extracted from the Blue Book. Accommodation for 76 :—

Average daily number of inmates during 1877	76·66
Gross superficial area of building	4,232 sq. ft.
Average do. do. per inmate	55 „
Gross cubic contents of building	28,881 cub. ft.
Average cubical space per inmate	377 „
Gross area of window space	350 sq. ft.
Average do. do. per inmate	4·5 „

186. The Lunatic Asylum is situated about a mile and a half from Bridgetown, near Glendairy Prison. The daily average number in the asylum during 1877 amounted to 133—65 males and 68 females. 55 admissions, 17 above the average of the last 11 years, were recorded; 39 patients were discharged, and 11 died in the asylum.

187. Of the 39 patients discharged 24 were cured, 11 relieved, and 4 are returned as "not improved."

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188. The accommodation at the Lunatic Asylum is inadequate to the wants of the population, and its character is of an inferior description. The energy and good management of the medical superintendent to a great extent counteract many of the evils which might be expected, under existing circumstances, to arise; but until a radical reform is made, satisfactory results cannot be anticipated.

189. The question of providing suitable accommodation at the Lunatic Asylum has been mooted for some years. An exhaustive report on the subject was made by Dr. Allen the medical superintendent of the Jamaica Lunatic Asylum in 1876; and during the present year the matter has been inquired into by a Special Commission, consisting of the principal medical officer of the garrison, an officer of the Royal Engineers, a local medical gentleman of high standing, and one of the principal Bridgetown merchants. The Commissioners, after describing the dormitories of the present asylum as "painfully overcrowded," and the rooms generally as "badly constructed, very insufficiently ventilated, "and in some instances quite unfit for occupation by lunatic "patients," and after an exhaustive discussion of the subject of their inquiry, recommended the erection of a new asylum, on a site already in the possession of the Government, at an estimated cost of 31,000*l.*

190. The same gentlemen were commissioned to inquire into the best means of increasing the accommodation of the Lazaretto. After a careful investigation the Commissioners recommended as follows:—

(1.) That in view of the provisions of the local law (which does not make residence in the Lazaretto compulsory on lepers except in cases of vagrancy) it would be sufficient to provide accommodation for 120—70 males and 50 females.

(2.) That 1,000 cubic feet should be allowed for each patient, instead of 377 as at present.

(3.) That the present Lazaretto should be devoted to 42 female patients, and that additional accommodation should be there provided for 8 female patients.

(4.) That a two-storied building, with accommodation for 70 male patients, should be erected on lands adjoining the present asylum.

(5.) That a kitchen should be added to the present institution.

191. The cost of these improvements is estimated at 11,200*l.*

192. The report of the Commissioners, which is an exhaustive and valuable document, has been laid before the Assembly, and the whole subject will probably be taken into consideration during the coming session.

Almshouses.

193. There are two almshouses in the parish of St. Michael; and, with the exception of St. Andrew and St. Lucy, one in each

of the remaining parishes. The vestry of St. Andrew is about to commence the erection of an institution of this nature, and the vestry of St. Lucy has applied to the Legislature for a grant for a similar purpose. As already stated, the subject of poor relief awaits the consideration of the Legislature.

194. An Act has just been passed appointing an inspector of public institutions. The duration of the Act is limited to 31st December 1880.

Emigration.

195. The Blue Book contains the fifth, and, for the present at all events, the last report of the Superintendent of Emigration. The Emigration Act of 1873, under which the office of superintendent was constituted, expired in February of this year, and a Bill intended to revive the department failed to pass the House of Assembly. Apart from the desirability of keeping a record of some kind of the movement of the population, it is matter for regret that the measure was allowed to lapse, on account of the provision made for assisting destitute families to emigrate, and thus relieving the already overburdened parochial rates. 39 applications for assistance to emigrate have been received since the expiration of the Act nine months ago.

196. Now that there is no Government supervision over emigration, the present system is probably open to objections similar to those urged by Governor Rawson in 1872 against the system then in force. Sir William remarks (Report on the population of Barbados, 1851–1871, page 2):—"The withdrawal of "one class of the population—of a large excess of that class— "of the sex and age most valuable to the community, and the "consequent increase of the non-productive and infirm portion "of the population, is a matter for grave consideration." And again, page 3:—"Timely emigration, therefore—a well-regulated "emigration, which shall provide for the admixture of a fair pro- "portion of females, and of old and young of both sexes in the "ebbing stream—appears to be the only safe course by which to "escape from the evils which either an unhealthy emigration, "such as has been in progress during the last 10 years, or an "accumulation of the increasing population pent up within the "Island, must at an early period produce."

197. Shortly after this report was published, and doubtless in a great measure in deference to its recommendations, the Emigration Act which expired in February last was passed. But if a Governor of Sir William Rawson's experience was warranted in making these observations in 1872, when the population was 966 to the square mile, it may fairly be assumed that the non-renewal of the Emigration Act in 1878, when the population is estimated at 1,057 to the square mile, is likely to have an injurious effect upon the future welfare of the Colony.

198. Turning to the Superintendent's report, it appears that the registered emigration during 1877 amounted to 1,084, 160

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below the average of the five years during which the Act was in operation.

199. The loss to the population due to emigration during the year is estimated at 500. The excess of baptisms over burials is estimated at 4,145, so that the net increase of the population during 1877 may be estimated at 3,640. Forty-seven indigent persons were assisted to emigrate during the year.

200. The following extract from the Superintendent's report will be read with interest:—

"The supply of coolies which Demerara draws from India exhibits marked indications of decrease; for, although the British Government has very recently consented that Demerara should in future raise the number of its labourers from India to 7,000 a year, yet it is well known that, but for the severe famine that prevailed during a part of the year, the stipulated 5,000 adults would not have been obtained, This arose not only from the number of distant Colonies that depend on India for their labourers, but from the rapidly increasing cultivation of tea in Assam, Cachar, and Rangoon. The coolies naturally prefer the short journey, and the competition for them is now so keen that the recruiters of emigrants, who used at first to be paid 14 rupees (about $6 72) to procure three men and one woman, now receive from 25 to 50 rupees (from $12 to $24) for a single adult. This shows that the principal outlet for our surplus agricultural population hitherto afforded by Demerara may be confidently relied on for a prolonged future. This outlet is a real advantage to Barbados, even although a large portion of those who go away do not permanently abandon our Island. Some of them leave Barbados systematically during the slack season, and return when busy times come back; others revisit the Island to spend time with their relatives and friends, and quit it again after a few months. Regarded from the most important point of sight, this movement, permanent and otherwise, is beneficial to the Island. It makes room for those that remain, gives them more constant employment, and thus increases their earnings without raising the rate of wages."

Meteorological.

201. Meteorological observations were taken during the year 1877 at "Binfield," St. Joseph's, at an elevation of 1,063 feet above the level of the sea, with the following results:—

202. The mean of the readings of the barometer, corrected for height, and reduced to 32° Fahrenheit at 9 a.m., was 30·03 inches for the year, the highest reading being 30·16 inches in the month of January, and the lowest 29·88 inches in September.

203. The mean approximate temperature of the air was 75° 71′, the highest temperature 83° 2′ occurring in September, and the lowest 69° 2′ in March.

204. The mean dew point was 72°, the highest being registered in October, viz., 74° 8′, and the lowest 68° 4′ in February.

205. The solar radiation thermometer averaged 137° for the year, the highest reading being 142° in April and September, and the lowest 129° in December.

206. The terrestrial radiation thermometer averaged 70° for the year, the highest reading 71° being registered in several months, and the lowest reading 67° in January and February.

207. The rainfall amounted to 79·53 inches for the year, distributed over 236 days; while the evaporation amounted to only 28·85 inches for the year.

208. The wind was 277 days from N.E., 75 days from S.E., 2 days from S., and 1 day from S.W.

209. There were thunder storms in April, May, June, July, August, October, and November.

210. During the present year 1878 observations have been taken at two other stations, viz., at the Commercial Hall, Bridgetown, and in the neighbourhood of the town, points situated in the south-west corner of the Island, about 11 miles distant from Binfield, which is on the north-east side of the Island. The results are very nearly the same as those recorded at Binfield last year.

211. The year 1877 was healthy, the Island was not visited by epidemic disease of any kind, and the death-rate, so far as it has been ascertained, was considerably below the average.

212. Judging by the statistics the year was fairly prosperous. It has been followed by one not so successful in the matter of staple crop, but more successful in the matter of revenue, and the balance in the Treasury at the close of 1878 will probably amount to 9,000*l.*

(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Colonial Secretary.
2nd December 1878.

Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, February 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in connexion with my of the 3rd December, enclosing the Colonial Secretary's Report upon the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1877, copy of a letter which Mr. Hely-Hutchinson has addressed to me in explanation of the apparent discrepancy between the balance of revenue which he stated in the last paragraph of his Report was to be expected at the end of the year 1878, and that which actually existed on the 31st December 1878.

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2. The Colonial Secretary satisfactorily shows the fictitious nature of that balance, and justifies the statement in his Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados,
February 6, 1879.

SIR,

IN view of the fact that the balance at the Treasury on 31st December 1878, amounted (in round numbers) to 20,000*l.*, and was estimated in the last paragraph of the Blue Book Report as likely to amount only to 9,000*l.*, it is right that I should offer to your Excellency the following remarks by way of explanation of the discrepancy.

2. When the Blue Book Report was finished the Trade Act of 1878 had not been passed. This Act, which was assented to on the 11th December 1878, provided for a considerable increase in the duties on tobacco and spirits, to come in force on the 1st January 1879. Immediately after the Act had been assented to, the merchants commenced taking tobacco and spirits out of bond in order to avoid paying the increased duty, and before the 1st of January an increase of nearly 8,000*l.* worth of duties had been paid on this account alone. Other sources yielded an unexpected increase, and the net increase on the quarter's revenue, as compared with the same period in 1877, amounted to 9,631*l.* Most of this increase represents so much loss to the revenue of 1879.

3. Certain sums, too, due by the Government in 1878, which had been provided for in the Blue Book estimate, were not paid until January 1879, and the discrepancy between the estimate in the last paragraph of the Blue Book Report and the actual balance at the close of 1878 is thus accounted for.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency,
George Dundas, Esq., C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Windward Islands.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 7.

Lieut.-Governor DUNDAS, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government Office, Castries,
August 13, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1877.

2. Very full reports having been made for several successive years on the condition and prospects of the Island, and there having been no important change during 1877, there is little of general interest to add. Moreover, as I was not in the Colony during any part of the year to which the returns now under consideration relate, and as I arrived less than two months ago, I am hardly yet qualified to express opinions as regards either the past or the future. I shall therefore limit my remarks to matters of fact.

3. I am glad to observe that the statements of the quantity and value of the products, and the statistics of trade and revenue, show that the steady advance in material prosperity that has distinguished St. Lucia for some years past suffered no serious interruption during 1877.

4. The health of the Island was good.

5. Some progress was made in the improvement of the public and charitable institutions. With the exception of the Royal Gaol, which is defective in many respects, these institutions may be described as fairly creditable. The general hospital at Castries, as regards its management as well as the construction and situation of the building, is especially worthy of commendation.

6. The statistics of crime are less satisfactory than could be wished. There was a considerable increase over the two previous years in the number of cases dealt with on summary conviction. The number of convictions in the superior court was slightly less than in 1876, but still greatly in excess of 1874 and 1875. Improvements in prison discipline which have lately been introduced will, it is hoped, result beneficially in this matter.

7. I annex a tabular statement, compiled from the Blue Books of 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877, giving in a comparative form the most important statistics for those years.

ST. LUCIA.

8. I have already reported on the subject of the central sugar factory in a separate Despatch No. 81 of 16th July 1878.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., C.M.G.,
Lieut.-Governor of the Windward Islands,
&c. &c. &c.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL STATEMENT for the years 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877.

Year.	Revenue inclusive of Special Funds.	Revenue exclusive of Special Funds.	Expenditure inclusive of Special Funds.	Expenditure exclusive of Special Funds.	Treasury Balance on 31st December.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Quantity of Sugar Exported.	Quantity of Logwood Exported.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	lbs.	tons.
1874	28,380	20,761	33,242	24,268	4,535	133,006*	146,858	13,374,060	306
1875	30,146	25,258	30,454	25,333	7,919	150,740*	158,886	14,832,900	1,587
1876	29,879	27,441	32,671	29,242	5,875	106,692	143,717	11,522,668†	4,126
1877	30,243	28,265	31,160	27,964	5,447	110,558	178,734	12,227,880†	3,530

continued.

Year.	Quantity of Cocoa Exported.	Land under Cultivation.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Estimated Population 31st December.	Number on Rolls of Schools.	Summary Convictions.	Convictions before Superior Courts.	Sugar made at Central Factory.	Quantity of Canes used.
	lbs.	acres.							tons.	tons.
1874	255,614	No return	42·6	28·8	33,630	2,566	797	24	Nil.	Nil.
1875	277,172	No return	42·5	24·9	34,221	2,705	603	22	Nil.	Nil.
1876	399,030	24,596	43·9	25·5	34,848	2,748	638	48	760	14,610
1877	243,476	27,578	42·8	24·8	35,474	3,081	778	39	724, in 1878 660	10,390, in 1878 12,953

* These amounts include the value of the machinery imported for the Central Factory stated to be 49,102*l.* Deducting this special item, the ordinary imports of the years 1874, 1875 would be 120,003*l.* and 116,641*l.*, respectively.

† Including sugar made at Central Factory.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 8.

Acting-Governor SOMERSET to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Gibraltar, October 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1877, together with the following observations thereon:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue collected in 1877 was 39,846*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, showing a decrease of 92*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* as compared with the year 1876.

The comparative yearly statement of receipts shows a slight increase under the heads of duties on wine and spirits, tavern licenses, and port dues, and a decrease under the heads of auction dues, ground rents, and wine house and spirit store licenses.

The expenditure for 1877 amounted to 41,585*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, which being compared with the previous year shows a decrease of expenditure of 848*l.* 13*s.*

In comparing the receipts with the expenditure for the year 1877, it will be seen that there has been an increase of expenditure over receipts of the sum of 1,738*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, which was met out of the Colonial surplus revenue invested in Government securities.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December 1877 were as follows:—

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Surplus revenue invested in Government securities - - - - -	35,712	10	0
Outstanding rents of Crown lands - -	5,037	10	3
Cash in the strong vault and service chest -	575	7	10
Total - - -	41,325	8	1

Liabilities.

Nil.

Legislation.

The most important laws passed during the year were:—

Ordinance 1, to control recruiting in Gibraltar for the service of foreign states.

An Order of the Queen in Council extending to Italian vessels the advantages held out by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1862.

Proclamation of an Order of Her Majesty in Council sanctioning an agreement between the Governments of Gibraltar and Ceylon for the removal of prisoners to Gibraltar.

An Ordinance to provide for the more convenient administration of the Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873, in Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR.

Proclamation of Her Majesty's Order in Council amending the Gibraltar Charter of Justice of 1830.

Proclamation of Her Majesty's Order in Council sanctioning an agreement between the Governments of Malta and Gibraltar for the removal of prisoners to that Island.

Pensions.

During the year five pensions were granted in consequence of retirement from office, amounting in all to 944*l.* 4*s.* The total amount for pensions payable out of the Colony was 2,512*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

Education.

The number of schools receiving grants in aid from Government during the year was 11. The sum provided in the annual estimates was 800*l.*, out of which 776*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* was paid as representing the total amount of local voluntary subscriptions collected in aid of the several schools.

The number of pupils attending the poor schools was as follows:—

Gibraltar Public School - -	277
Church of England - -	125
Roman Catholic - -	944
Wesleyan schools - -	307
Infant and industrial schools -	173
Total - -	1,826

Judicial.

Serious crime, with one exception, has not been prevalent during the past year.

The number of summary convictions before the magistrate's court was 559, and before the port magistrate's court, 95, making a total of 654, the great majority being for minor offences.

Fourteen cases were tried in the Supreme Court for offences against the person and property, judgment for the Crown being obtained in all cases except one.

Capital crime is of very rare occurrence in Gibraltar, and capital punishment has not been carried into effect since the year 1863.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels with cargoes or in ballast which have entered at this port from the 1st January to the 31st December was as follows:—

	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing vessels - -	1,748	283,926	13,177
Steam vessels - -	3,044	2,103,078	82,505
Total -	4,792	2,387,004	95,682

Comparing this return with that for the previous year 1876, it shows in the grand totals of the arrivals for 1877 an increase of 25 steamers, with a decrease of 12,485 tons, and a decrease of 179 sailing vessels, with an increase of 25,829 tons, thus leaving in the total tonnage of both descriptions of vessels collectively an increase of 13,344 tons.

Works and Buildings.

The following new works were completed in 1877, viz., first portion of the re-construction of the public market.

The following works were commenced and considerable progress made in them :—

1. Additions to the post office.
2. Construction of additional apartments at the Convent.
3. The new road through the Alameda Gardens.

The principal works and improvements undertaken by the Sanitary Commissioners during the year 1877, in addition to the ordinary work of maintaining, cleaning, and watering the streets and highways, lighting and scavenging, were as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Building retaining wall forming footpath from foot of Landport Glacis to Bayside	947	0	0
2. Forming road and footpath, and planting trees from Bayside to Cemetery - -	305	0	0
3. Constructing a stage or jetty, and erecting a house on the Eastern Beach for a refuse shoot - - - - -	407	0	0
4. Repairing damage caused by storm -	376	0	0
5. Fitting up 102 houses for water supply -	1,449	0	0

The total cost of new works and improvements amounted to 4,803*l.*

General Remarks.

The health of the civil population for the whole year has been below the average, attributable to atmospheric causes and a small rainfall.

The average rate of mortality of the resident civil population, about 19,000, was 26 per 1,000. In all other respects the condition of the Colony may be regarded as having been satisfactory, allowance being made for the general depression of trade.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. SOMERSET, Lt.-General,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

New South Wales.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 9.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Government House, Sydney
November 15, 1878.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to you, herewith, the statistical register of New South Wales for the year 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Hercules Robinson.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Registrar-General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Department, Sydney,
August 20, 1878.

Sir,

The greater portion of the statistical returns having been received and placed in the hands of the printer, I do myself the honour to submit the following report for the year ended 31st December 1877.

I have to call your special attention to the great difficulty of procuring the necessary returns for the publication of the statistical register in anything like a reasonable time. We have now entered the eighth month of the year 1878, and yet there is information for the past year not yet supplied from two or three of the departments. I am satisfied that if the head of each department would insist on a compilation of returns at stated periods of the year, the statistics could be made public at a much earlier date. I also bring under your notice the present mode of collecting the agricultural and live stock returns. Some of the details are inaccurate and misleading, besides entailing much labour and causing great delay in publication. The general totals, as also the totals of each district, may be relied on as correct. On this subject, however, I propose going more into detail on a future occasion.

Part I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1877, was 662,212 persons, which makes an addition during the year of 32,436 persons, or 5·15 per cent. The estimated number

of the sexes was as follows:—Males, 367,323; females, 294,889, so that the former were 72,434 in excess of the latter. The percentage of males to total population was 55·47, and of females 44·53, showing a difference of 10·94 in favour of males, which figures are 0·46 higher than those for the previous year. The proportion of males per 1,000 of population was 555, and of females 445. The following figures show the increase for each half year:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

Half year ending 30th June 1877.

Births - - - -	11,457
Arrivals by sea - - -	18,255
Total - - -	29,712
Deaths - - - -	5,502
Departures by sea - - -	10,574
Total - - -	16,076

showing a net increase of 13,636 persons, and bringing the estimated population to 643,412 persons.

Half year ending 31st December 1877.

Births - - - -	12,394
Arrivals by sea - - -	20,373
Total - - -	32,767
Deaths - - - -	4,367
Departures by sea - - -	9,600
Total - - -	13,967

showing a net increase of 18,800 persons, and making our estimated population to number 662,212 persons.

The registers show that during the year 1877 there were 4,994 marriages celebrated, being an increase of 364 on the previous year. The number of births registered was 23,851, as against 23,298 in the year preceding, giving an addition of 553 births to the year under consideration. Registered deaths numbered 9,869, which are fewer by 1,324 than those for the previous year. Marriages, births, deaths.

From the number of marriages celebrated during the year 1877, we find that the rate per 1,000 of estimated population was 7·76, which figures show that the average for the previous nine years has been a little more than fully sustained. Marriages celebrated in the city numbered 1,343, which gives a rate of 13·81 to estimated population. The number of suburban marriages was 556, which amount to 7·21 per 1,000; and 3,095 was the number for the country districts, making 6·58 per 1,000. The city rate is 1·18 lower than the average of the previous Marriages.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

nine years; that for the suburbs is higher by 2·19 than the previous nine years' average, and also higher by 0·95 than any single year of the same period. The country districts show a rate of 1·08 in excess of the average of the previous nine years. Of the total number of marriages we find that the Church of England celebrated 37·42 per cent.; Roman Catholic, 19·82; Presbyterian, 17·10; Wesleyan, 10·19; Primitive Methodist, 2·20; Congregational, 4·86; Baptist, 1·40; and Registrars, 6·07.

Births.

During the year 1877, we find that the total number of births registered in the Colony was 23,851, viz., 12,292 males and 11,559 females, or 51·54 and 48·46 per cent. respectively. There were then 733 more male than female children. In the previous year the excess of male over female children was 1·22 per cent.; for the year under consideration it is 3·08 per cent. Of the total number of births 14·25 per cent. occurred in the city, 13·61 per cent. in the suburbs, and 72·14 per cent. in the country districts. The birth rate of the Colony per 1,000 of estimated population for the year 1877 was 37·05, which is 0·70 lower than the previous year, and 2·16 below the average of the previous nine years. On referring to the decennial tables it will be seen that, with the exception of the year 1873, the birth rate of the Colony has been gradually on the decrease year by year. The city shows a birth rate of 34·95, which is lower by 0·53 than the preceding year, and 1·69 under the average of the nine previous years. In the suburbs the birth rate for the year was 42·15, which is 0·76 higher than the previous year, but 1·61 lower than the nine previous years' average. The country districts show a birth rate of 36·67. Here again we find a decrease of 0·95 on the previous year, and 2·29 on the average of the previous nine years.

Deaths.

From the death registers for the year 1877, we learn that the rate of mortality was considerably lower than for the two preceding years. The number of deaths registered in the Colony was 9,869, as against 11,193 in the previous year. The percentage of male deaths to total deaths is 59·55, and of female deaths 40·45; the former being 19·10 per cent. higher than the latter. The death rate for the Colony per 1,000 is 15·34, which is 2·79 lower than the previous year; but 0·32 over the average of the nine years preceding. The average of daily rate of mortality is about 27. The rate for Sydney for the year 1877 was 20·57, which is under the figures for the previous year by 6·13, and also for the average of the previous nine years by 2·42. The average daily rate for the city was 5·48. The suburbs show a death rate of 17·15, and here we find a difference of 5·66 in favour of the year under consideration, as compared with the previous year, and 0·82 lower than the nine years' previous average. For the country districts the death rate was 13·95, which is lower by 1·64 than the previous year, but 1·06 higher than the average rate of the previous nine years. The consideration of these figures indicates that the past year has been an unusually healthy one,

and that the greatest improvement is to be noticed in the city of Sydney. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Immigration. The number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom during the year 1877 was 6,757, which largely exceeds the figures for any one year of the decade. The increment to our population from this source for the year was nearly 60 per cent. over the previous nine years. From other countries the number of arrivals was 465. The total number of immigrants at the public expense was 6,018, consisting of 2,892 males and 1,627 female adults, and 743 male and 756 female children. There were 739 immigrants at their own expense. The number who arrived at the public expense from England and Wales was 3,689 or 61·30 per cent.; Scotland, 418 or 6·95 per cent.; Ireland, 1,446 or 24·02 per cent.; and other countries, 465 or 7·73 per cent. The religious belief of immigrants at the public expense is as follows:—Protestants, 4,554 or 75·67 per cent.; Roman Catholics, 1,403 or 23·31 per cent.; and other religions, 61 or 1·02 per cent. The arrivals from Great Britain by the mail steamers cannot be ascertained, as they only appear in the lists as from the port of departure of the vessel in which they arrive, therefore the foregoing numbers may be looked upon as arrivals by sailing vessels.

Lunatic and invalid establishments. During the year 1877 there were eight institutions in operation for the treatment of lunatics and imbeciles, seven of which are under the control of Government, and one is conducted by a private individual. We find that the total number of inmates on 31st December 1877 was 1,836, consisting of 1,155 males and 681 females. The number of admissions during the year (inclusive of re-admissions, 115) was 797; of patients under care, 2,704; of those discharged as recovered, 209; and as relieved, 55. The deaths numbered 129. There were 340 patients passed through the lunatic receiving house at Darlinghurst. The total receipts for the year from the Government were 49,035*l.* By a foot-note on page 15 it will be seen that the sum of 1,863*l.* was received from relations and friends for maintenance, and paid into the Colonial Treasury.

Hospitals. The number of patients in the various hospitals of the Colony at the end of the year 1877 was 544, comprising 428 males and 116 females. The admissions for the year numbered 5,678, and discharges 5,022, and there were 642 deaths recorded. There were also 9,844 persons who received out-door relief. The total receipts for the year amounted to 41,661*l.*, of which sum voluntary contributions show 21,133*l.*, and the Government provided 20,528*l.*

Benevolent asylums. These institutions, supported chiefly by the Government, provided for 1,869 adults and 420 children as admissions during the year. There were 1,537 adults and 383 children discharged, and 317 adults and 40 deaths of children. The number remaining at the end of the year was 1,289 adults and 191 children. The cost of maintenance to the Government was 23,961*l.*, and 1,891*l.* were the proceeds of voluntary contributions.

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Benevolent societies.

Orphan and industrial schools.

Two of these institutions were in operation during the year, at a cost of 612*l.*, of which amount voluntary contributions provided 398*l.*, and the Government 214*l.*

From the returns of these schools we find that the number of inmates on 31st December 1877 was 1,848, consisting of 1,028 males and 820 females. The receipts for the year amount to 30,760*l.*, of which 24,032*l.* were from the public purse, and 6,728*l.* the result of contributions.

Miscellaneous institutions.

Under this head are six establishments, supported entirely by private contributions. Four of them, the Home, Sailors' Home, Sydney Female Refuge, and Infants' Home, had the care of 1,577 inmates, of which number 1,431 were discharged, and 34 died, including 32 infants. The receipts of three of the institutions (the Sailors' Home not giving an account) amounted to 2,165*l.*, and the disbursements were 46*l.* in excess of receipts. The City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen gave during the year 67,800 meals, and afforded shelter in 34,076 instances; the receipts were 622*l.*, and expenditure 560. The House of the Good Shepherd rendered no return.

The total amount provided in relieving distress and in ameliorating the condition of the people during the year 1877 was 151,158*l.*, of which sum private contributions afforded 33,387*l.*

Wages, provisions, and clothing.

On page 18 of the Statistics will be seen a decennial return of the average rates of wages for different classes of labour in the Colony; and on page 21 a like return of the average prices of provisions and clothing in Sydney. The average rates of wages obtained in the Colony for the year 1877 are as follows:—

	Without Board and Lodging.	With Board and Lodging.
Males.		
Carpenters	10*s.* to 11*s.* per diem.	80*l.* to 104*l.* per annum.
Smiths	9*s.* to 10*s.* „	75*l.* to 100*l.* „
Wheelwrights	9*s.* to 10*s.* „	70*l.* to 100*l.* „
Bricklayers	10*s.* to 12*s.* „	——
Masons	10*s.* to 12*s.* „	——
Farm labourers	-	35*l.* to 45*l.* „
Shepherds	-	35*l.* to 45*l.* „
Females.		
Cooks (plain)	-	32*l.* to 65*l.* „
Housemaids	-	26*l.* to 40*l.* „
Laundresses	-	32*l.* to 45*l.* „
Nursemaids	-	20*l.* to 35*l.* „
General house-servants	-	26*l.* to 45*l.* „
Farmhouse servants, dairy-women, &c.	-	26*l.* to 39*l.* „

PART II.

Religion, Education, Crime.

Churches and chapels.

The ecclesiastical returns for the year 1877 show that there were 1,186 churches and chapels, which is an increase of 36 on

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the previous year. The number of registered ministers was 613, as against 611 in the previous year. The number of individual sittings had increased from 188,548 to 188,993, the average attendance from 155,762 to 158,815, and average attendance at all other places used for public worship from 35,258 to 38,406. The general total average attendance was 197,221, which is 6,201 in excess of the returns for the preceding year. The average attendance at five churches with 250 sittings could not be obtained. The number of registered ministers was as follows:—Church of England, 203; Roman Catholic, 161; Presbyterian, 81; Wesleyan Methodist, 88; Congregational, 32; Baptist, 13; Primitive Methodist, 14; Particular Baptist, 5; United Methodist Free Church, 4; and each of the other churches under the last-named figure. The total amount paid during the year to the four churches which receive aid from the Government, viz., Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Methodist, which number 533 ministers, was 22,355*l.* This sum represents receipts as salaries and allowances, and also moneys derived from the church and school estates.

Sunday schools.

The number of these schools in the Colony during the year 1877 was 1,121, showing an increase of 63 on the previous year. There were 7,615 teachers and 81,516 children on the registers, the average attendanee being stated to be 62,037, or about 76 per cent. Distinguishing the sexes of teachers and children, we find that 43·10 per cent. of the former class were males, and 56·90 per cent. females; and of the latter class 47·05 per cent. were males, and 52·95 per cent. females. Of the total number of children on the registers (81,516), we find that the Churches of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Methodist claim 69,522, or 85·28 per cent. of the whole.

Private schools.

From the return showing the number of private schools in each police district of the Colony for the year 1877, we learn that there were 565 of such schools, which provided accommodation for 19,099 pupils, consisting of 8,292 males and 10,807 females. In the metropolitan division alone there were 260 private schools, with 10,737 scholars. The total number of teachers employed during the year in all private schools was 1,067, viz., 273 males and 794 females. The total increase on the figures of the previous year is as follows: schools 22, scholars 669, teachers 51.

Orphan and industrial schools.

The number of children receiving instruction in these schools was 1,324, consisting of 791 males and 533 females, under the charge of 20 teachers.

Council of Education—public schools.

The total number of these schools for the year 1877 was 939, being an increase of 47 on the previous year. Comparing the three classes of schools under the designation of public schools with the previous year, we find that public schools had increased from 503 to 561. Provisional schools had decreased from 279 to 266, and half-time schools were two in excess. There were 82,714 children under instruction, consisting of 43,926 males and 38,788 females. The number of teachers was 1,260, viz., males 745, females 515. There were 70 more teachers than in 1876,

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and 6,759 more scholars. The total amount received during the year from voluntary contributions, fees, and other sources was 47,754*l.*

Denominational schools.

There were 178 denominational schools in the Colony in the year 1877, being three less than in the preceding year. Scholars numbered 34,538, viz., 18,660 males and 15,878 females. The decrease in the number of scholars was 776. There were 202 male and 203 female teachers; in all 405, being 12 more than in the previous year. The sum of 18,856*l.* was received from voluntary contributions, fees, &c.

The grand total amount paid by the Government from the Colonial Treasury and Clergy and School Estates Revenue Fund, during the year 1877, was 251,643*l.*, and that received as fees, &c. was 66,610*l.*, making in all the sum of 318,253*l.*

Sydney University and colleges, &c.

The Sydney University shows a roll of 61 students and an income of 11,595*l.*, of which sum 5,000*l.* was provided by the Treasury.

The Colleges of St. Paul and St. John number 6 and 11 students respectively, and their incomes amounted to 1,091*l.* and 1,333*l.* respectively, each receiving 500*l.* from the Government. The number of students in St. Andrew's College was 17, with receipts amounting to 2,608*l.*, of which 2,247*l.* was paid by the Government.

The Sydney Grammar School, with 401 scholars, had an income of 7,083*l.*, made up by 5,583*l.* the proceeds of fees, and 1,500*l.* from the Government.

The general total number of scholars (inclusive of private schools) for the year 1877 was 138,267, and the general total amount set apart for educational purposes was 371,838*l.*, which sum is exclusive of the cost of education for 19,099 scholars in private schools. The total increase on the year 1876 in the number of scholars was 6,647.

Academy of Art.

The return of the Academy of Art is for the 12 months ending 31st May 1878. During this period it appears that the amount furnished by the Government in aid was 1,500*l.* and that 24*l.* was received as private contributions. The total sum expended by the Government on the Academy of Art amounts to 5,000*l.* The number of students for the year is stated to be 38, viz.:—13 males and 25 females.

Free Public Library.

The number of volumes, pamphlets, and parts in this Library was 32,753, of which number 26,772 were in the reference branch, and 5,981 in the lending branch. It is supported entirely by the Government. During the year 1877 the sum of 4,020*l.* was expended in the purchase of books, &c. The total cost of this Library to the Government has been 23,685*l.* Donations of books and objects to the end of the year 1877 numbered 1,900, of the estimated value of 1,220*l.* The number of visits during the year to the reference library was 113,760, and to the lending branch 10,928, this portion being first opened on 3rd July of last year.

Schools of art, public libraries, &c.

The return No. 34 shows the number of schools of art, public libraries, &c. in the Colony, with the date when first opened,

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whether freehold or leasehold, cost of erection, the amount received from Government and from private contributions, the number of volumes of books, and the number of visits paid during the year 1877.

Australian Museum.

The amount expended in the erection of this building is 34,749*l.* The receipts for the year 1877 from the Government amounted to 3,500*l.*, and the expenditure to 2,951*l.*, of which 1,632*l.* went for purchases, and 1,319 in salaries and wages. There were 75,275 visitors during the year.

Crime.

The total number of cases for which committals were obtained to the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Colony, during the year 1877, was 281, as against 338 in the previous year. There were 184 convictions and 97 acquittals. The number of committals to the quarter sessions for the year was 1,130, being an increase of 72 on the previous year. There were 899 trials, 633 convictions, and 266 acquittals. The total number of offences reported to the police during the year was 21,604, which shows an increase of 2,493 on the preceding year. The total number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts of the Colony in the year was 47,739, of which number 7,788 were discharged for want of prosecution, or for want of evidence; 5,431 were cases dismissed on the merits; 33,003 were summarily convicted, and 1,517 committed for trial.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

Imports and exports.

The return of imports and exports of the Colony for the year 1877 shows that the general total value of imports was 14,606,594*l.*, and of exports 13,125,819*l.*, which is an excess of 1,480,775*l.*, of the former over the latter. As compared with the previous year we find that the value of imports was in excess by 933,818*l.*, and of exports by 121,878*l.* Taking the estimated mean population* of the year it will be seen that imports amounted to 22*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.* per head, and exports to 20*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* These figures give an increase on the preceding year of 9*s.* 10½*d.* per head on imports, and a decrease of 14*s.* 3¾*d.* per head on exports.

* 645,994.

Imports.

Imports from the United Kingdom amounted in value to 6,471,780*l.*, which is an increase of 708,247*l.* on the figures of the previous year. The value of imports from British Colonies was 6,903,952*l.* as against 6,957,463*l.*, showing a decrease of 53,511*l.*, on the previous year.

Imports from the Colony of Victoria are valued at 1,171,278*l.*, seaward, and 1,360,171*l.* overland, in all 2,531,449*l.*, which amount is over the figures of the preceding year by 144,672*l.*

From South Australia the value of imports amounted to 811,292*l.*, viz.:—557,454 seaward, and 253,838*l.* overland. Here we find the large decrease of 354,514*l.* on the previous year's figures. Queensland imports were valued at 2,229,957*l.*, consisting of 2,218,334*l.* seaward traffic, and 11,623*l.* overland traffic; showing an increase of 240,368*l.* on the preceding year. Imports from other British Colonies were estimated at the value of 1,331,254*l.* Imports from foreign states at 1,230,862*l.*, made up

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chiefly as follows:—United States, 481,565*l.*; China, 316,441*l.*; Java, 145,185*l.*; New Caledonia, 151,684*l.*

Exports.

The value of exports to the United Kingdom in the year 1877 amounted to 6,018,926*l.*, which figures are in excess of those for the previous year by 100,739*l.* Exports to the Colony of Victoria were valued at 3,898,129*l.*, which is a falling away of 145,537*l.* on the figures of the preceding year. The value of our overland exports to Victoria is set down at 2,869,945*l.*, of which amount the sum of 2,245,914*l.* represents the value of New South Wales wool, the bulk of which was no doubt in transition to foreign markets. The value of our exports to South Australia is computed at 352,825*l.*, of which 142,411*l.* was seaward, and 210,414*l.* overland. As compared with the previous year the deficiency in the value of exports to this Colony amounted to 317,313*l.* Our exports to Queensland were valued at 1,498,128*l.*, which gives an increase of 376,308*l.* on the previous year. Seaward traffic amounted to 1,435,707*l.*, and overland to 62,421*l.* Exports to other British Colonies were valued at 899,482*l.*, and to foreign states 458,329*l.*, the principal customers being United States, 107,748*l.*; New Caledonia, 165,838*l.*; China, 42,490*l.*; South Sea Islands, 48,059*l.*

Imports and exports.

Comparing the imports and exports of the year 1877, we find that exports to the United Kingdom were in excess by 452,854*l.*, and also to the Colony of Victoria by 1,366,680*l.* Imports from the Colony of South Australia were 458,467*l.* over the value of exports thither, and those from Queensland were also in excess by 731,829*l.* Imports from all British Colonies were in excess of exports by 255,388*l.* The general total value of imports over exports for the year 1877 amounted to 1,480,775*l.*

Shipping.

The number of vessels which entered the ports of the Colony during the year 1877 was 2,361, of an aggregate of 1,136,206 tons, and crews amounting to 48,312 in number. The number of sailing vessels was 1,509, with an aggregate of 623,682 tons, and 17,487 hands. Steam vessels numbered 852, with an aggregate of 512,524 tons, and 30,825 hands. As compared with the previous year, we have an addition of 48 in the number of vessels with an aggregate of 61,781 tons.

The following table shows the number of vessels entered inwards during the year 1877, with their aggregate tonnage, from Great Britain, &c.:—

Countries from whence arrived.	No.	Tons.
Great Britain - - - -	151	170,349
Australian Colonies - - -	1,605	684,125
New Zealand - - - -	361	150,194
Other British Possessions - -	37	20,984
South Sea Islands - - -	42	11,844
From fisheries - - - -	1	286
United States of America - -	35	43,701
Foreign States - - -	129	54,723
	2,361	1,136,206

The next table shows the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels of each nation, entered at ports of the Colony during the year 1877:—

Nationality of Vessels.	No.	Sailing.	Steam.	Tons.	Crews.
British Possessions -	1,807	1,083	724	678,927	31,709
British - -	393	285	108	346,356	13,127
Foreign - -	161	141	20	110,923	3,476
	2,361	1,509	852	1,136,206	48,312

The number of vessels, with their aggregate tonnage, entered at each port of the Colony was as follows:—

Names of Ports.	No.	Tonnage.
Sydney - - - -	1,253	662,217
Newcastle - - -	1,065	469,349
Grafton - - - -	10	1,452
Richmond River - - -	15	2,031
Tweed River - - - -	18	1,157
	2,361	1,136,206

The number of vessels cleared from the ports of the Colony during the year 1877 was 2,301, of an aggregate of 1,101,775 tons, and crews amounting to 46,045 in number.

The following figures show the number of vessels, with aggregate tonnage, which cleared during the year 1877 to Great Britain, &c.:—

Countries to which departed.	No.	Tons.
Great Britain - - - -	50	63,214
Australian Colonies - - -	1,395	543,065
New Zealand - - - -	357	149,028
Other British Possessions - -	141	106,275
South Sea Islands - - -	51	13,671
To fisheries - - - -	2	350
United States of America - -	86	107,103
Foreign States - - - -	219	119,069
	2,301	1,101,775

The number, tonnage, and crews of vessels of each nation cleared at ports of the Colony during the year 1877 was as follows:—

Nationality of Vessels.	No.	Sailing.	Steam.	Tonnage.	Crews.
British Possessions -	1,759	1,087	672	653,453	30,146
British - -	389	269	120	343,992	12,695
Foreign - -	153	135	18	104,330	3,204
	2,301	1,491	810	1,101,775	46,045

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The number of vessels, with their aggregate tonnage, cleared from each port of the Colony during the year 1877 was as follows:—

Names of Ports.	No.	Tonnage.
Sydney - - - -	920	511,623
Newcastle - - - -	1,328	577,676
Grafton - - - -	18	2,896
Richmond River - - -	4	615
Tweed River - - - -	16	1,008
Eden - - - - -	15	7,957
	2,301	1,101,775

Shipbuilding, &c.

The return of the number of vessels built in the Colony during the year 1877 shows that there were 61 in number, of an aggregate of 4,510 tons. The number of vessels registered in the year amounted to 103, of an aggregate of 11,595 tons.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

On page 158 will be seen a return of the number of mills for grinding and dressing grain in each of the police districts of the Colony for the year 1877. The total number of these mills was 163, of which 15 were in the metropolitan district, and 12 in the Bathurst district, the rest being distributed over the remaining districts. Seven mills of the total number were not working. The aggregate horse-power used was 2,623. There were 151 mills worked by steam, representing 2,529 horse-power, 8 by water with 80 horse-power, and 3 were moved by horses. The number of pairs of stones in use was 382, and employment was given to 623 persons.

The total number of manufactories and works in operation in the Colony during the year 1877 was 2,438, which employed 23,807 persons, viz., 20,590 males and 3,217 females. In the metropolitan district we find 795 manufactories, and employing 13,897 persons, of whom 10,827 were males and 3,070 females. In the country districts there were 1,643 manufactories, &c., which gave employment to 9,910 persons, of whom 9,763 were males and 147 females.

The following table gives the number of manufactories, &c. connected with industries grouped under certain heads:—

—	No.	Hands employed.
Connected with or dependent on agriculture - -	161	2,025
Working on raw materials, the production of the pastoral interest - - - - - - -	336	2,828
Manufacture of food and of articles of drink, &c. - -	234	1,750
Building materials and plastic manufactures - -	688	3,870
Machine manufactories, brass, lead, and iron works -	155	2,197
Miscellaneous works and manufactories - -	864	11,137
	2,438	23,807

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Woollens.

There were eight mills in operation during the year for the manufacture of woollens. The quantity of cloth and tweed manufactured was 271,452 yards, as against 395,704 yards in the previous year. This large reduction in production is accounted for by the fact that one owner of a large metropolitan establishment refused to afford the collector any information. The number of persons employed in the seven establishments for which returns have been received was 207, consisting of 156 males and 51 females.

Soap and candles.

The number of manufactories in operation for soap and candles in the year 1877 was 33, which gave employment to 156 persons. The quantity of soap produced was 92,958 cwt., which is an increase of 12,063 cwt. on the previous year's return. The quantity of candles produced in the year was 36,909 cwt., in place of 13,811 cwt. in the previous year.

Tobacco.

The number of establishments engaged in the manufacture of tobacco during the year 1877 was 18, which found employment for 469 males and 63 females, in all 532 persons. The quantity produced amounted to 19,180 cwt., showing an addition of 5,440 cwt. to the figures of the previous year's return.

Sugar.

The number of sugar mills in the Colony in the year 1877 was 63, of which number 18 were not in operation. The quantity of sugar produced was 150,744 cwt. As compared with the previous year, we find there is an increase on the previous year's return of 56,784 cwt. in sugar, and that molasses had increased in quantity from 55,560 gallons and 1,362 tons in 1876 to 78,823 gallons and 1,667 tons in 1877. This industry afforded employment to 1,065 persons.

Boiling down establishments.

The number of boiling-down establishments for the year 1877 was 36, in which there were 24,000 sheep and 7,793 horned cattle slaughtered for tallow, and 213 pigs for lard. The quantity of tallow produced was 61,294 cwt., a large portion of which was obtained from the refuse of butchers' shops. The lard produced amounted to 11,260 lbs. Both tallow and lard are in excess of the previous year's production by 17,484 cwt. and 4,271 lbs. respectively.

Distilleries.

The quantity of spirits (rum) distilled during the year 1877 was 150,737 gallons of proof spirit. In comparison with the previous year there is a decrease of 67,571 gallons.

PART V.

Production.

Gold.

The quantity of gold received by escort at the Mint from the several gold fields of the Colony, has been decreasing yearly for the past five years. For the year under review, the weight received was 97,582 ounces, valued at 366,329*l.*, which is a decrease of 29,207 ounces in quantity, and 112,804*l.* in value on the return for the previous year. The western gold fields supplied 71,335 ounces, valued at 265,135*l.* As compared with the preceding year this shows a deficit of 23,543 ounces and 92,361*l.* in value. From the southern gold fields the quantity received was

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23,007 ounces of the value of 89,064*l.*, which shows a loss on the previous year's return of 4,411 ounces and 15,679*l.* The supply from the northern gold fields amounted to 3,239 ounces, worth 12,129*l.*, and here again is a deficiency of 1,252 ounces and 4,765*l.*

Coal Mines.

The return of the quantity and value of coal, iron, tin, copper, &c. raised at the mines during the year 1877, and the number of miners employed, gives the following particulars:—The number of coal mines in the Colony in the year 1877 was 40, of which 10 were not in work, and there were three others where only preliminary work was in progress, which leaves 27 mines in active operation. The quantity of coal raised was 1,444,271 tons, valued at 858,998*l.* These figures show the large increase of 124,353 tons of the value of 55,698*l.* on the returns for the previous year. The total number of miners employed was 4,657, of these, 3,831 were working underground, and 826 above ground. Out of the total quantity raised we find the northern districts produced coal to the value of 711,173*l.*

Shale.

The produce of shale in the year 1877 amounted to 18,963 tons, valued at 46,524*l.* There is an increase on the previous year of 2,965 tons, but a decrease in value of 1,470*l.* There were four mines in operation during the year, which employed 135 men. The principal mine appears to be that at Hartley Vale, where the output is stated to have been 15,972 tons,

Copper.

The results of copper mining for the year 1877 show a great improvement on the previous year. The quantity of copper ore, regulus, and copper produced was 6,454 tons of the value of 97,443*l.*, as against 5,225 tons and 58,271*l.* The value of copper is put down as 62,400*l.*, and of ore and regulus at 35,043*l.* The number of men employed in this industry was 334.

Tin.

The quantity of tin ore produced at the various mines of the Colony in the year 1877 was 6,444 tons, valued at 219,640*l.*, showing a decrease of 1,261 tons in quantity, and in value of 33,073*l.* Employment was given to 2,447 miners.

Iron.

The returns of iron ore show a great reduction on those of the preceding year, the principal mine being at work only for the first three months of the year. The total quantity raised was 2,600 tons of the value of 7,600*l.*

Antimony.

There were 47 tons of antimony ore raised during the year 1877 valued at 564*l.*

Live stock.

The returns of live stock in the Colony for the year ended 31st March 1878 show very plainly the losses sustained by reason of the long continued drought. The number of stockholders in the Colony is given as 35,661. The number of horses is stated to be 328,150, being a decrease of 38,553 on the preceding year's returns, which give a larger number of horses than for any year in the decade. There were 2,746,385 head of horned cattle as against 3,131,013 in the previous year, which is a loss of 384,628 head to the year under review. The number of sheep in the Colony was 20,962,244, which is short of the previous year's return by 3,541,144. Looking at the decennial table of the

number of sheep in the Colony, and taking the tverage of the first five years, it will be seen that the yearly number of sheep was 16,043,575. The average of the last five years of the decade gives the number as 22,644,511. NEW SOUTH WALES.

From the agricultural returns we learn that the number of occupiers of land of one acre and over (excluding those for pastoral purposes) amounted to 40,329, which shows that there were 690 more holders of land than in the previous year. The total area of holdings comprised 19,435,896 acres, being 1,225,100 acres in excess of the figures for the preceding year. The extent of land in cultivation is returned as 546,556 acres, making an addition of 32,716 acres to the total of the previous year's returns. There were 13,792,620 acres of land enclosed but not under cultivation, and here again we find an increase on the previous year of 2,771,652 acres. The extent of land unenclosed was 5,096,720 acres, being fewer by 1,579,267 acres than the figures for the preceding year. Agriculture.

The total extent of land set apart for the growing of wheat was 176,686 acres, which produced 2,445,507 bushels. The average yield was close on 14 bushels to the acre, which is an exceptional low average, owing no doubt to the drought which prevailed. Wheat land then occupied 32·3 per cent. of the total area under cultivation. In comparison with the figures of the previous year we find an increase of 31,078 acres in area, and of 53,528 bushels in quantity. The cultivation of maize comprised an area of 105,510 acres, the produce of which came to 3,551,806 bushels, being an average of about 33½ bushels per acre. This crop covered 19·3 per cent. of the total land under cultivation, and shows a deficiency on the previous year of 10,854 acres and 327,731 bushels. The extent of land under barley was 5,055 acres, which returned 99,485 bushels, the average per acre being about 19½ bushels, which is 4 bushels under the average of the previous year. There was a decrease of 607 acres under crop, and 34,673 bushels in production. Oats covered an area of 18,580 acres, which yielded 358,853 bushels. The average per acre was a trifle over 19 bushels, being 2 bushels under the average of the previous year. The total area under crop and the yield are both under the figures of the previons year by 3,248 acres and 103,063 bushels. The area of land set apart for the growth of rye was 1,168 acres, and of millet 239 acres, the yield of the former being 19,184 bushels, and of the latter 3,877 bushels; the average yield per acre being 16 bushels for each. Grain crops.

The area of land devoted to the cultivation of potatoes was 13,862 acres, the yield for which amounted to 34,957 tons, which shows an average of 2½ tons to the acre. Here again we find a decrease in area of 309 acres, and in quantity produced of 7,981 tons. Potatoes.

The culture of tobacco occupied 399 acres, and shows a small increase on the previous year. The produce amounted to 3,049 cwt. Tobacco.

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Sugar-cane. The extent of land covered with sugar cane comprised 7,066 acres, of which 3,331 acres are returned as productive, and 3,735 as unproductive. The quantity of sugar obtained was 150,744 cwt., and gives an average of a little over 45 cwt. to the acre.

Hay. Sown grasses (including Lucerne), oats, wheat, and barley for hay occupied an area of 125,778 acres, showing an increase of 13,832 acres on the returns of the preceding year. The yield is stated to have been 154,076 tons. Though the area laid down was in excess of the previous year we find that the yield was short by 5,584 tons.

Vines. The area of land under the cultivation of the vine was 4,183 acres, being under the figures of the previous year by 274 acres. The quantity of wine produced was 708,431 gallons, and of brandy 1,481 gallons. Grapes for table use were produced to the amount of 797 tons.

Green food for cattle. Sown grasses, oats, barley, &c., used for green food for cattle, covered an area of 65,072 acres, which are in excess of the previous year's returns by 3,556 acres.

Gardens and orchards. Gardens and orchards comprised a total area of 19,900 acres. As compared with the previous year we find an increase of 553 acres.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

In this part of the yearly returns from page 198 to 231 inclusive will be found tables of taxes, duties, &c., fees and accounts, weights and neasures, and course of exchange.

Interest. The rates of interest allowed to depositors by the various banks of the Colony, varied from 3 to 5 and 5½ per cent. according to the duration of the deposit.

Coin and bullion. From the return of the amounts of coin and bullion in the Mint, Colonial Treasury, and the banks of the Colony on 31st December 1877, we learn that the total amounted to 2,575,420*l.*, which figures show a decrease of 303,997*l.* on the retnrns of the previous year. The amount of bullion held by the Mint was of the value of 34,170*l.*, and by the banks 106,023*l.*, in all 140,193*l.* The value of coin was 2,435,226*l.*, the whole of which (except 100*l.*) was in the custody of the banks.

Notes. The amount of notes of the several banks in circulation was of the value of 1,242,081*l.*, which is in excess of the preceding year by 21,525*l.* The average circulation of notes for the year amounted to 1,129,249*l.*

Bank liabilities and assets. On pages 234 and 235 will be found a general abstract of the average assets and liabilities, and of the capital and profits of the banks of the Colony for each quarter of the year 1877.

New South Wales Savings' Bank. The return of the New South Wales Savings Bank shows that the number of depositors on 31st December 1877, was 32,220, with 1,355,258*l.* to their credit. As compared with the previous year we find an increase of 1,217 in depositors, and in amount of 51,446*l.* Sydney depositors numbered 25,056, with 1,056,145*l.* to their credit, and there were 7,164 in the country districts,

with a credit of 299,113*l.* The increase on the previous year of Sydney depositors was 936, and of country depositors 281; and the excess of deposits was 43,073*l.*, and 8,374*l.* respectively. The amount to credit of reserve fund was 140,000*l.*, and the amount to credit of profit and loss account was 15,690*l.* The rate of interest paid during the year to depositors on amounts not exceeding 100*l.*, and that charged for money lent on mortgage, was 5 per cent. NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following figures show the number and amount of deposits:—

—	No.	Amount.
		£
20*l.* and under - -	15,337	83,391
Between 20*l.* and 50*l.* -	6,062	205,938
„ 50*l.* and 100*l.* -	5,229	373,300
„ 100*l.* and 200*l.* -	5,329	576,925
„ 200*l.* and 300*l.* -	151	35,369
„ 300*l.* and over -	112	80,335
	32,220	1,355,258

The total amount of credit of depositors in Government savings banks at the close of the year 1877 was 467,452*l.*, which is in excess of the previous year's figures by 67,332*l.* There were 8,268 accounts opened, and 5,462 closed, during the year. The total number of accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 16,076. The total number of deposits during the year amounted to 47,948, representing, with interest, the sum of 344,687*l.* The total number of withdrawals was 17,871, representing the sum of 278,532*l.* Government savings' banks.

The total value of gold dust or bullion received at the Mint during the year 1877 amounted to 1,608,248*l.* The number of sovereigns issued was 1,590,000. Of the total quantity of gold supplied to the Mint, the Colony of Queensland stands first, with a value of 1,126,315*l.*, and then New South Wales, with 459,201*l.* The total revenue of the Mint was 10,902*l.*, of which sum 3,316*l.* was received from gold the produce of this Colony, and 7,586*l.* from other sources. Gold received and issued at the Mint.

On reference to page 241 will be seen the return showing the earnings and expenditure of the railways of the Colony during the year 1877. We find that 89 miles were added to the length of our railways; the extensions consisting of 65 miles to the Great Southern and Western lines, and 24 miles to the Northern route. The total earnings for the year amounted to 815,920*l.*, which shows an excess of 122,695*l.* on the previous year. Of this amount 92,279*l.* was received from the Great Southern and Western lines, and 30,416*l.* from the Northern line. The total expenditure for working expenses was 418,985*l.*, which leaves 396,935*l.*, as net earnings over working expenses. The amount received from passenger traffic was 270,771*l.*, and carriage of Railways.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

goods brought in 542,621*l.* There was also a sum of 2,528*l.* received under the head of miscellaneous. As compared with the previous year we find the following increases:—From passengers, 42,252*l*; from goods, 83,266*l.* Miscellaneous receipts were less by 2,822*l.*

Electric telegraphs.

The total number of miles of wire open on 31st December 1877, was 9,761, constructed at a cost of 343,973*l.* There were 190 stations, and 1,001,884 messages were despatched. The receipts for the year amounted to 96,357*l.*, of which sum 65,645 was received for telegrams, and 30,712*l.* represents balance on inter-colonial business, and guaranteed lines, &c.

Post offices.

At the close of the year 1877 there were 810 post offices in the Colony, which employed 1,180 persons. The extent of postal lines was 19,508 miles, and the number of letters conveyed was 16,509,000, comprising 1,979,500 foreign, 11,579,500 inland, 2,950,000 town letters. There were also 8,385,000 newspapers passed through, of which number 1,652,000 were foreign, and 6,733,000 inland. Packets and book parcels numbered 398,600, viz.:—Inland, 263,600, and foreign, 135,000. The income for the year amounted to 154,171*l.*, which includes the amount of postage contributions of the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies to the cost of ocean mail subsidy. The expenditure, which includes estimated outstanding liabilities, amounted to 226,305*l.*

Money orders.

There were 273 offices for the issue of money orders in the Colony during the year 1877. The total number of orders issued was 129,120, representing a sum of 494,469*l.* These figures exceed those for the previous year by 16,436 in number, and by 28,698*l.* in value. The number of orders paid was 120,493 of the total value value of 450,477*l.* The increase under this head was 19,001 in number and 29,315*l.* in value. The total amount received as commission on orders amounted to 5,248*l.*

Immigration.

The total amount expended in England in connexion with immigration for the year 1877 was 62,458*l.*, the total outlay being 74,299*l.*, which provided for the introduction of 6,018 immigrants. This number includes 761 assisted immigrants, who arrived from New York.

Military.

The general total amount incurred by the Colony in the year 1877 on account of defence and for military and naval services, was 94,362*l.*, as against 55,717*l.* in the previous year. Repairs to buildings, cost of stores and gunpowder magazines, absorbed 30,092*l.*, and the sum of 15,535*l.* was expended towards completing the fortifications of Port Jackson. The sum of 42,238*l.* was paid on behalf of permanent and volunteer military forces, and 6,496*l.* on account of naval services. Of this latter amount the sum of 6,121*l.* was paid to the naval brigade.

Municipalities or boroughs.

The return of 46 municipalities shows that the total receipts for the year ending 4th February 1878, amounted to 133,472*l.* The estimated annual value of rateable property upon which rates were struck, was 1,102,144*l.*, ordinary rates are set down as 49,220*l.*; special rates, 6,360*l.*; subscriptions, &c., 7,473*l.*; loans,

5,502*l.*; from Government, 64,918*l.* The total expenditure is shown to have been 92,841*l.*, distributed as follows :—Office expenses and salaries, 10,138*l.*; public works, 59,874*l.*; special works, 5,943*l.*; miscellaneous, 6,721*l.*; repayment of loans, 10,165*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

The total amount expended on the several railways of the Colony in the year 1877 was 744,440*l.* Of this sum we find that 272,885*l.* was spent on extensions not open for traffic, and 471,555*l.* on lines open for traffic. The actual amount of expenditure to 31st December 1877, on the finished lines of the Colony was 8,739,177*l.*, and on unfinished lines 575,323*l.*, making in all a total outlay of 9,314,500*l.* Public works. Railways.

The cost of electric telegraphs for the year amounted to 42,912*l.*, as against 26,172*l.* in the previous year. Electric telegraphs.

The general total amount expended on roads and bridges during the year 1877 was 444,350*l.*, which sum is inclusive of 58,967*l.* issued to trustees of minor and subordinate roads. As compared with the expenditure of the previous year, we find an increase of 62,093*l.* Roads and bridges.

The return from the harbours and rivers branch shows an expenditure for the year of 186,917*l.*, which is an increase of 11,728*l.* on the previous year. Harbours and rivers.

The total amount expended by the Colonial architect in the erection and repairs of the public buildings of the Colony during the year 1877 was 200,149*l.*, showing an increase of 44,464*l.* on the expenditure of the previous year. The cost for furniture amounted to 9,841*l.* Public buildings.

The total expenditure on all public works for the year 1877 was as follows :—

	£
Railways - - - -	744,440
Electric telegraphs - -	42,912
Roads and bridges - - -	444,350
Harbours and rivers - -	186,917
Public buildings - - -	200,149
	1,618,768

The total number of deeds relating to real and leasehold estates registered during the year 1877 was 10,556, representing a money consideration of 5,107,656*l.* As compared with the previous year, we find an increase of 1,053 in the number of deeds, and of 1,200,453*l.* in value. The following comparative table shows the number and value of some of the principal transactions :— Real and leasehold estates.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

	1876.		1877.	
	No.	Consideration.	No.	Consideration.
		£		£
Conveyances under mortgage -	110	63,394	334	238,095
Conveyances (absolute) -	4,553	1,663,935	5,005	2,228,895
Leasehold - - -	220	96,562	203	110,798
Mortgages - - -	2,126	1,402,848	1,758	1,308,775
Discharges of mortgages -	1,101	600,835	1,902	1,123,139
Transfers of mortgages -	69	58,696	71	49,528
	8,179	3,886,270	9,273	5,059,230

Liens on wool, and mortgages on live stock.

There were 994 preferable liens on wool registered during the year, as against 920 in the previous year. The number of sheep forming the security amounted to 4,386,378; and the sum secured was 627,779*l.* This shows a decrease on the previous year's return of 442,573 sheep, and of 125,039*l.* Mortgages on live stock registered during the year numbered 1,994, being 1,236 over the figures of the previous year. The security consisted of 2,565,962 sheep, 185,796 horned cattle, and 6,726 horses. The amount lent was 2,004,363*l.* The number of discharges of live stock mortgages registered was 225, representing the sum of 1,292,703*l.*

Liens on growing crops.

The number of these securities recorded had increased from 319 in 1876 to 477 in 1877. In the former period the sum of 16,419*l.* was advanced, and in the latter the sum of 27,086*l.*

Real Property Act.

The number of applications to obtain certificates of title under the Real Property Act was 240, being 64 less than in the year 1868, the first year of the decennial. The declared value of property comprised in these applications amounted to 210,431*l.* The total sum collected in the Registrar-General's Department as fees under the Real Property Act for the year 1877, amounted to 10,092*l.* of which 6,603*l.* was paid into consolidated revenue on account of certificates of title and registration of dealings generally. The sum of 2,976*l.* was collected on account of assurance fund, and 512*l.* as fees for Commissioners of Title. The number of transfers registered during the year was 3,394, with consideration money amounting to 1,046,340*l.* Here we find an increase in number on the previous year of 528, and in value of 266,606*l.* There were 1,423 discharges of mortgages registered, showing an increase of 219 on the previous year, the amount represented being 1,976,142*l.* The total number of transfers, mortgages, discharges, and encumbrances was 5,428, representing a value of 3,563,576*l.*, the increase on the previous year's business being 877 in the number of transactions, and 1,291,406*l.* in the amount of consideration. The number of Crown grants registered in the year was 9,107, comprising a total area of 1,174,286 acres of land, the purchase money of which amounted to 1,204,648*l.* Both the area and value of land comprised in grants registered are largely in excess of the previous year or of any year in the decade. The

grand total area of land under the provisions of the Real Property Act at the end of the year 1877 was 4,987,139 acres of the estimated value of 8,754,084*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 286 civil cases tried during the year 1877 in the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the Colony. Of this number 184 were defended, and 98 undefended or settled. There were also 4 special cases. Of the total number of cases 212 were tried in the Supreme Court at Sydney, and 74 in the Circuit Courts. Civil cases.

The number of suits commenced in the several district courts of the Colony for the year ended 1st March 1878 was 9,491, involving a total amount of 177,380*l.*; of the total number of cases 3,878 were settled without hearing, and 11 by arbitration. There were 131 cases tried by jury, and 5,326 without the intervention of a jury, making a total of 5,457 cases tried. Plaintiffs were successful in 4,911 cases, and defendants in 546 cases. District courts.

The number of insolvencies during the year was 588, being 86 in excess of the figures for the previous year. Voluntary insolvents numbered 534, and compulsory 54. The total amount of liabilities, as shown by insolvents' schedules, was 508,352*l.*, and the amount of assets, as shown from the same source, was 210,821*l.*, which leaves a deficiency of 297,531*l.* Insolvencies.

The number of miners' rights issued during the year was 6,288, as against 7,395 in the previous year. There were also 408 mineral licenses issued, being an addition of 137 to the previous year's figures. The issue of the business licenses reached 553. Miners' rights. Mineral and business licenses.

The machinery used in alluvial mining for gold consisted of 15 steam engines, which were employed in winding, pumping, &c. As compared with the previous year, we find a considerable decrease in the various kinds of machinery used in alluvial mining. The quartz mining returns also show a small reduction on the preceding year in the number and description of machines employed. The number of steam engines at work during the year was 120, of an aggregate of 1,735 horse power. Gold mining machinery.

The number of publicans' licenses issued in the year 1877 was 3,043, showing an increase of 230 in the previous year's returns. To this number the city and suburbs contribute 63. Publicans' licenses.

The return of the New South Wales Artillery, which is the regular military force of the Colony, shows a total of 358 men, of whom 299 were rank and file. The total figures give an increase of 135 on the previous year, and of 118 on rank and file. Volunteer corps show a total strength of 3,851, which figures are under those of the previous year by 390. The number of rank and file was reduced from 3,645 in 1876 to 3,288 in 1877. The number of the Naval Brigade was also reduced from 329 to 286. Military forces.

The highest shade temperature for the year 1877 recorded at the Sydney Observatory was in the month of December, when the thermometer stood at 97°4. The mean for the year is shown to have been 82°9. The lowest temperature was 41°6, in the month of June, the mean for the year being 50°5. The greatest fall of rain in any one day during the year was 4·890 inches, which occurred in the early part of the month of October. The total Meteorology.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

fall of rain for the year amounted to 59·517 inches, which is greater by nearly 8 inches than the average rainfall of the preceeding 18 years.

Land sales.

The total area of land sold by auction during the year 1877 amounted to 1,830,996 acres and 32½ perches, which realized the sum of 1,855,749*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* Of this sum 1,611,543*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* was received, leaving an unpaid balance of 244,205*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* The average price per acre of these lands was as follows:—Town lots, 27*l.* 6*s.* 9¾*d.*; suburban, 4*l.* 13*s.* 3¼*d.*; country, 1*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.* Land unconditionally sold by selection comprised an area of 158,843 acres, for which 167,129*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* was received, being an average of 1*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.* per acre. Improved lots sold to owners of improvements show an area of 159,848 acres 2 roods 32½ perches, for which 172,138*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* was realized, showing an average of of 1*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.* per acre. The area of land conditionally sold was 1,699,816 acres, at the price of 1*l.* per acre. The amount received on account of these sales was 424,954*l.* leaving an unpaid balance of 1,274,862*l.* Balances received during the year on conditional purchases amounted to 71,852*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and interest, produced 126,657*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* The total amount received during the year on account of land revenue under the Lands Alienation Act of 1861 was 2,655,579*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, which is an increase of 198,360*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* on the income of the previous year. Under the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861 we find that the area occupied was 241,260 square miles, which brought in as rent and assessment the sum of 224,118*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* Here is an increase of 8,732*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* on the figures of the previous year. The amount received under the Gold Fields Act was 20,558*l.* 4*s.*, being 4,549*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* under the income of the previous year. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to 31,279*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*

The following figures show at a glance the total amount of business done during the year:—

		£	s.	d.
Total receipts	Under Lands Alienation Act -	2,655,579	14	3
	„ „ Occupation Act	224,118	12	11
	„ Gold Fields Act -	20,558	4	0
	Miscellaneous - -	31,279	2	9
		2,931,535	13	11
Balances payable in 1878—Auction sales		244,205	9	1
„ 1880 — Conditional purchases - - - -		1,274,862	0	0
General total - -		4,450,603	3	0

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GRANT WARD,
Registrar-General.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative Positions and aggregate Importance of the Australasian Colonies, at the close of the Year 1877.

Name of Colony.	Estimated mean Population of 1877.	Revenue of 1877.	Proportion of Revenue of 1877, raised by Taxation.	Rate of Taxation per Head of Population.	Value of Imports for 1877.	Value of Imports per Head of the Population.	Value of Exports for 1877.	Value of Exports per Head of the Population.	Total Value of Trade, Imports and Exports.	Value of Trade per Head of the Population.	Miles of Railway open, 31st Dec. 1877.
		£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	645,994	5,748,245	1,235,021	1 18 2¾	14,606,594	22 12 2½	13,125,819	20 6 4½	27,732,413	42 18 7	643*
Victoria	849,870	4,723,877†	1,770,685†	2 2 2¼‡	16,362,304	19 5 0¾	15,157,687	17 16 8½	31,519,991	37 1 9¼	931
South Australia	231,383	1,441,401	499,885	2 3 2½	4,625,511	19 19 9¾	4,626,531	19 19 10¾	9,252,042	39 19 8½	327
Queensland	195,092	1,436,581	609,860	3 2 6¼	4,068,682	20 17 1¼	4,361,275	22 7 1¼	8,429,957	43 4 2½	357
Tasmania	106,294	361,771	236,777	2 4 6½	1,308,671	12 6 2¾	1,416,975	13 6 7¼	2,725,646	25 12 10	172½
Western Australia	27,579	165,413	81,268	2 18 11	362,707	13 3 0¼	373,352	13 10 9	736,059	26 13 9¼	68
Total	2,056,212	13,877,288	4,433,496	2 3 4	41,334,469	20 2 0½	39,061,639	18 19 11¼	80,396,108	39 1 11¾	2,498½
New Zealand	408,348	3,916,023	1,343,944	3 5 9¾	6,973,418	17 1 6½	6,327,472	15 9 10¾	13,300,890	32 11 5¼	954
Total for Australasian Colonies	2,464,560	17,793,311	5,777,440	2 7 0¼	48,307,887	19 12 0¼	45,389,111	18 8 4	93,696,998	38 0 4¼	3,452½

* Includes a private line of railway, 45 miles in length.

† For financial year ended 30th June.

‡ The mean population for the year 1876-7 has been used, viz., 839,493.

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.—STATISTICAL RETURN showing the relative Positions and aggregate Importance of the Australasian Colonies at the close of the Year 1877—*continued.*

Name of Colony.	Miles of Railway in course of Construction, 31st Dec. 1877.	Miles of Telegraph Lines open, 31st Dec. 1877.	Miles of Telegraph Wire open 31st Dec. 1877.	Miles of Telegraph in course of Construction, 31 Dec. 1877.		No. of Acres under Crop in 1877.	No. of Horses in 1877.	No. of Cattle in 1877.	No. of Sheep in 1877.	No. of Pigs in 1877.	Estimated Population on 31st Dec. 1877.	Public Debt on 31st Dec. 1877.	Rate of Indebtedness per Head of Population.
				Length of Lines.	Length of Wire.							£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	217¾	6,000	9,761	*—	1,758	546,556	328,150	2,746,385	20,962,244	191,677	662,212	11,724,419	17 14 1
Victoria	193	2,885	5,200	44	45	1,420,502	203,150	1,174,176	10,114,267	183,391	860,787	17,018,913	19 15 5
South Australia	404	4,061	5,153	100	320	1,828,115	110,684	230,679	6,098,359	104,527	237,090	4,737,200	19 19 7¼
Queensland	168	5,033	6,778	—	—	99,891†	140,174	2,299,582	6,272,766	52,371	203,084	7,685,350	37 16 10
Tasmania	—	621	843	55	55	131,013	22,195	126,882	1,818,125	55,652	107,104	1,589,705	14 16 10
Western Australia	25	1,567¼	— ‡	—	—	50,591	30,691	52,057	797,156	18,942	27,838	161,000	5 15 8
Total	1,007¾	20,167¼	27,735	—	2,178	4,076,668	835,044	6,629,761	46,062,917	606,560	2,098,115	42,916,587	20 9 1
New Zealand	219	3,307	7,530	—	—	641,833§	99,859‖	494,917‖	11,704,853‖	123,921‖	417,622¶	20,691,111**	49 10 10¾
Total for Australasian Colonies	1,226¾	23,474¼	35,265††	—	2,178	4,718,501	934,903	7,124,678	57,767,770	730,481	2,515,737	63,607,698	25 5 8

* Could not be ascertained. † There are also 5,158 acres in fallow, making the total under *cultivation* 105,049 acres. ‡ Not stated in Return received from this Colony.
§ Exclusive of land in sown grasses (including hay, 45,090 acres), the acreages of which were as follow:—In grass, after having been broken up, 1,077,454. In grass, not previously ploughed, 1,531,385 acres. ‖ At the time the last census was taken, in March 1874.
¶ This estimate is a little over 3,000 in excess of the ascertained population on 3rd March 1878; the difference being probably caused by unascertained departures from the Colony since the census of 1874. ** As the invested Sinking Fund amounted to 1,438,838*l.*, the total debt should be reduced by that amount to exhibit the net liability.
†† The information for Western Australia is not included.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1868 to 1877 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Committments for trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	No. of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount actually received.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1868	466,765	18,485	3,736	7,225	1,254	66,835	1,006	601	181	3,562	434,756¼	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,231	417,809	151,829 *239,517	265,250
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	164,890 *397,329	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,862	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,374 *329,318	250,843
1871	519,182†	20,143	3,953	6,407	1,450	77,889	1,084	628	190	6,827	417,801	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193	898,784	316,340	88,638 *358,682	261,401
1872	539,190	20,250	3,925	7,468	1,464	106,691	1,073	643	188	7,769	454,634	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904	1,012,426	396,198	166,834 *749,587	432,373
1873	560,275	21,444	4,384	7,611	1,508	110,287	1,166	647	182	8,268	456,825	334,462	2,794,327	20,501,506	240,680	1,192,862	665,747	390,688 *1391719	845,410
1874	584,278	22,178	4,343	8,652	1,547	119,133	1,311	700	172	9,241	464,957	346,691	2,856,699	22,872,882	219,958	1,304,567	790,225	702,758 *1586282	1,111,041
1875	606,652	22,528	4,605	10,771	1,586	124,756	1,245	707	161	9,744	451,138¾	357,696	3,134,086	24,382,536	199,950	1,329,729	819,430	1,135,274 *1756678	1,760,570
1876	629,776	23,298	4,630	11,193	1,629	131,620	1,391	810	164	10,623	513,840	366,703	3,131,013	24,503,388	173,604	1,319,918	803,300	2,062,138 *1984212	2,513,404
1877	662,212	23,851	4,994	9,869	1,695	138,267	1,411	817	163	11,911	546,556	328,150	2,746,385	20,962,244	191,677	1,444,271	858,998	2,230,883 1,699,816	2,967,857

* Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."
Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre.
The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840–2. (20*s.* in Port Phillip in 1841.) 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.
In 1822, '3, '4, '5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars.
Transportation ceased in 1840.
The return of the revenue and expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military.
Gold discovered in May 1851.
The loans expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

† The census was taken in 1821, '2, '3, '5, '8, '33, '6; population as above.
2nd March 1841, population - - 130,856.
2nd March 1846 „ - - 189,609.
1st March 1851 „ - - 187,243.
1st March 1856 „ - - 266,189.
7th April 1861 „ - - 350,860.
2nd April 1871 „ - - 503,981.
The population from the year 1836 is estimated up to the end of each year.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1868 to 1877 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the produce of the Colony.*									Value of Total Imports.*	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.†		Coal.							
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1868	2,073	724,193	2,218	776,449	25,721,632	1,879,751	93,901	144,377	630	487,600	1,895,929	548,036	292,201	8,051,377	7,192,904	2,476,700‡	1,617,112	2,646,303‡	640,536
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672§	3,162,522§	101,622§	177,059§	4,515	642,358	2,493,869	595,553	298,195	8,392,753§	9,933,442§	2,590,217‡	1,073,292	2,649,329‡	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610§	2,741,141§	136,661§	227,819§	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281§	7,990,038§	2,490,203‡	85,106	2,638,264‡	660,089
1871	1,891	706,019	2,123	794,460	65,611,953§	4,748,160§	158,345§	258,323§	1,275	535,492	2,074,937	565,429	256,690	9,609,508§	11,245,032§	2,908,153‖	1,380,709	3,006,576‖	595,923
1872	2,011	774,490	2,091	813,550	50,233,453§	3,342,900§	107,635§	180,365§	401	543,430	2,111,231	669,110	307,861	9,208,496§	10,447,049§	3,592,979‖	568,436	2,986,186‖	652,437
1873	2,161	874,804	2,212	887,674	31,606,846	2,201,910	66,604	106,288	1,977	665,676	2,590,145	773,079	526,089	10,471,483	9,387,873	3,937,410‖	217,270	2,333,166‖	427,286
1874	2,217	1,016,369	2,168	974,525	75,156,924§	5,010,125§	67,053§	104,151§	3,257	482,076	1,875,081	872,980	632,247	11,293,739§	12,345,603§	4,664,568‖	365,560	4,426,040‖	575,732
1875	2,376	1,109,086	2,294	1,059,101	87,534,280	5,651,643	69,558§	112,072§	1,327	552,592	2,097,740	927,007	671,483	13,490,200§	13,671,580§	5,989,697‖	902,358	5,117,903‖	1,255,224
1876	2,313	1,074,425	2,265	1,053,300	100,736,330	5,565,173	77,539§	124,834§	322	410,330	1,589,854	868,817	625,211	13,672,776§	13,003,941§	6,961,887‖	1,220,505¶	6,030,410‖	1,198,333
1877	2,361	1,136,206	2,301	1,101,775	102,150,246	5,256,038	90,169§	147,790§	2,842	468,518	1,824,188	915,727	648,977	14,606,594§	13,125,819§	7,541,583‖	1,025,839	6,984,462‖	1,020,877

* Exclusive of the overland traffic.
† Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies and converted into bars and coin.
‡ The revenue and expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.
§ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
‖ Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.
¶ Includes 250,000*l.* advances from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

VICTORIA.

No. 10.

DIGEST OF THE STATISTICS OF VICTORIA, 1877.

Area of Victoria.

1. The estimated area of Victoria is 88,198 square miles, or 56,446,720 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,983,386 square miles, and therefore Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface.

Population.

2. At the end of each quarter an estimate of the population of Victoria is made by the Government Statist by means of the estimate of the previous quarter, and the difference between the numbers recorded as having been born and having died, and between those who arrived in the Colony, and departed therefrom by sea.

Imperfections in population estimates.

3. This estimate is generally to a certain extent imperfect, for in the first place no account is or can be taken of the arrivals or departures overland, and the calculated population is in consequence liable to be greater or less than the truth, according as the latter or the former preponderate; secondly, persons going from Victoria to the neighbouring Colonies by means of the inter-colonial steamers frequently do not take their passages beforehand, and consequently no record is made of their departure, whilst, as the arrivals by sea are all duly reported, the estimated population is from this cause apt to exceed the truth; thirdly, as the registration of death must precede burial, all or nearly all the deaths are registered, but as there is no such absolute necessity for registering births, a certain per-centage is always left unregistered. From this cause the estimate of population is likely to understate the truth. Until another census is taken it will not be possible to ascertain which of these disturbing influences is the most potent, or whether they counteract one another. In the meantime it will be well to remember that absolute reliance is not to be placed upon the population estimates.

Crews not included in estimate.

4. The crews of vessels coming to and leaving Victorian ports are not included amongst either the arrivals or departures, as it is held by the immigration authorities that the numbers about balance.

Population, 1877.

5. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of the year 1877, was follows:—

Population, 31*st December* 1877.

Males - - - -	467,741
Females - - - -	393,046
Total - -	860,787

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Increase of population, 1877.

6. The increase of population during the year was 20,487, viz., 11,278 males and 9,209 females. Of this increase, about two-thirds, viz., 13,234, consisting of 5,927 males and 7,307 females, resulted from the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder, viz., 7,253, consisting of 5,351 males and 1,902 females, was due to excess of arrivals over departures.

Increase of population, 1867 to 1877.

7. The increase of population exceeded that in 1876 by 3,459, and was also in excess of that in any year of the previous decenniad except 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871, as will be seen by the following figures.

Total Increase of Population.

1867	14,589	1873	19,765
1868	23,043	1874	17,945
1869	25,176	1875	14,835
1870	26,809	1876	17,028
1871	25,846	1877	20,487
1872	18,282		

Males and females.

8. The proportions of the sexes in the population, viz., 84 females to 100 males, or 119 males to 100 females, have not varied in the last five years.

Aborigines.

9. The aborigines in 1877 were estimated to number 1,067, of whom 633 were males and 434 females.

Miners.

10. The miners at the end of 1877 numbered 38,005 as against 41,010 at the end of the previous year.

Immigration and emigration, 1877.

11. The persons of both sexes who arrived in or departed from the Colony of Victoria by sea in 1877, and the excess of arrivals over departures, were as follows:—

Immigration and Emigration, 1877.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals	29,229	11,967	41,196
Departures	23,878	10,065	33,943
Immigration in excess	5,351	1,902	7,253

Arrivals and departures, 1877 and former years.

12. The arrivals in 1877 exceeded those in the previous year by 5,399, and were more numerous than in any other year since 1858, the departures in 1877 exceeded those in 1876 by 1,966, and were more numerous than in any other year since 1863.

Years in which arrivals and departures, 1877, were exceeded.

13. The arrivals in 1877 were exceeded in all the years from 1852 to 1858, both inclusive, but in no other years since the Colony was founded. The departures in 1877 were exceeded in 1853, 1854, 1861, 1862, and 1863, but in no other years.

Countries wherefrom and whereto.

14. The countries the immigrants came from and those the emigrants went to are specified in the following table. It will be noticed that arrivals from all the places except Queensland and South Australia exceeded the departures thereto, and that in those exceptions the excess of departures was but trifling. In 1876 and in 1875 the emigration exceeded the immigration in the case of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, and 1877 is the first year since 1870 in which the arrivals from New South Wales have exceeded the departures to that Colony:—

Arrivals from and Departures to different Countries, 1877.

Countries.	Arrivals therefrom.	Departures thereto.	Immigration in excess.	Emigration in excess.
New South Wales - -	12,365	11,942	423	—
Queensland - - -	26	39	—	13
South Australia - - -	8,062	8,226	—	164
Western Australia - -	157	94	63	—
Tasmania - - - - -	8,182	5,501	2,681	—
New Zealand and the South Seas -	4,469	3,685	784	—
The United Kingdom - -	6,376	3,372	3,004	—
Foreign Countries - -	1,559	1,084	475	—
Total - -	41,196	33,943	7,253*	—

Assisted immigration.

15. The only assisted immigration which took place during 1877 was that of 17 warrant passengers from the United Kingdom, viz., 9 males and 8 females.

Marriages, 1877.

16. The marriages celebrated in 1877 numbered 5,103 as against 4,949 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1877 was thus 154.

Marriages, 1877 and former years.

17. Marriages were more numerous in 1877 than in any other year since the first settlement of the Colony.† The next highest number (4,985) was in 1875, the next (4,974) in 1873, and the next (4,949) in 1876. Until the year under review the marriages in Victoria had never numbered in any one year as many as 5,000.

Marriage rate.

18. The marriages in 1877 were in the proportion of 6 to every 1,000 persons living. In 1876 marriages were in the proportion of 5·96 to every 1,000 persons living.

* Net figures.

† For the number of marriages during each year since the first settlement of Port Phillip, see Statistical Summary of Victoria, ante.

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Marriages of Aborigines and Chinese.

19. The marriages of 3 aboriginal males with aboriginal females are included in the returns of 1877. In the same year 20 Chinese males were married to females of European birth or origin.

Marriages by different sects.

20. The marriage ceremony in Victoria may be performed either by the registered clergy of any religious sect or by lay registrars. In 1877 nearly 93 per cent. of the marriages were celebrated according to the former, and a little over 7 per cent. according to the latter system. The number of lay marriages has a tendency to increase, as will be seen by the following table, which gives a statement of the number and per-centage of marriages celebrated by each religious sect, and by lay registrars during 1877, and during the previous 10 years :—

Marriages by different Denominations.

Marriages performed according to the Usages of the	Marriages celebrated in			
	Year 1877.		1867–1876.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Church of England -	1,287	25·22	11,730	24·45
Presbyterians - -	980	19·21	9,917	20·68
Wesleyans - -	1,007	19·73	8,070	16·83
Independents -	289	5·66	2,516	5·24
Baptists - - -	190	3·72	1,637	3·41
Lutherans -	75	1·47	491	1·02
Unitarians - -	—	—	16	·03
Society of Friends -	1	·02	4	·01
Calvinistic Methodists -	6	·12	111	·23
Roman Catholic Church -	794	15·56	9,694	20·22
Jews - - -	26	·51	201	·42
Other Sects - -	72	1·41	430	·90
Lay registrars - -	376	7·37	3,149	6·56
Total - -	5,103	100·00	47,966	100·00

Sects of Aborigines married.

21. Of the three aboriginal marriages which took place in 1877, 2 were solemnized according to the rites of the Presbyterian, and 1 according to those of the Baptist Church.

Sects of Chinese married.

22. Of the marriages of Chinese in 1877, 5 were celebrated according to the rites of the Church of England, and 8 according

to those of the Wesleyan Church, 1 was according to the rites of the Victorian Free Church, and 1 according to those of the Primitive Methodist Church, 5 were performed by lay registrars.

Signing with marks.

23. The numbers of either sex who evinced their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing were as follow, in 1877, the proportion of those who signed with marks to the total numbers married being also shown :—

Signing Marriage Register with Marks, 1877.

Persons Married.	Numbers Married.	Signing with Marks.	
		Total Number.	Number in every 100 Married.
Bridegrooms - - -	5,103	257	5·04
Brides - - -	5,103	307	6·02
Mean - -	5,103	282	5·53

Ages of persons married.

24. The age of both bride and bridegroom was specified in the case of all but 36 of the 5,103 marriages which took place in 1877. In 25 of the defective entries the age of neither party was given ; in 3 cases the age of the husband was stated, not that of the wife, and in 8 instances the age of the wife was given, not that of the husband. The following table shows the ages of the husbands and of the wives in combination :—

Ages of Persons Married, 1877.

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.																			Total Husbands.
	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	Unspecified.	
17 to 18 years -	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
18 to 19 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
19 to 20 „ -	—	—	3	7	9	5	5	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
20 to 21 „ -	—	1	—	9	14	14	16	17	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
21 to 25 „ -	—	5	28	80	151	175	179	747	90	9	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,470
25 to 30 „ -	—	1	14	50	106	115	137	699	256	56	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,444
30 to 35 „ -	—	—	8	25	38	74	63	338	224	92	35	11	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	913
35 to 40 „ -	—	—	2	4	5	18	25	90	99	62	37	15	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	366
40 to 45 „ -	—	1	2	3	5	4	2	56	59	58	53	33	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	290
45 to 50 „ -	—	—	—	—	4	6	1	26	40	33	35	41	27	8	4	—	—	—	—	225
50 to 55 „ -	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	13	14	15	31	21	13	12	2	1	—	—	—	127
55 to 60 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	2	5	15	17	10	6	4	—	—	—	68
60 to 65 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	5	3	7	4	—	1	—	—	—	26
65 to 70 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	7
70 to 75 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	5
75 to 80 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Unspecified -	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	33
Total wives -	1	8	59	180	332	419	436	1,998	800	331	213	145	86	44	14	7	1	1	28	5,103

NOTE.—This table may be read thus :—Three men between 40 and 45 married girls between 17 and 18; two women between 55 and 60 married men between 40 and 45, &c.

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Relative ages of husband and wife.

25. An examination of the above table will show that in 1,236 instances, or 25 per cent. of the whole, both parties to the marriage were about the same age; in 321 instances or 6 per cent. of the whole, the wife was older than the husband, and in 3,510 instances, or 69 per cent. of the whole, the husband was older than the wife.

Disparities of age.

26. In 1877, as in other years, some curious inequalities occurred in the ages of persons marrying, and these can be readily traced in the last table. Thus a man between 50 and 55 is shown to have married a girl of 14. This marriage was solemnized according to the rites of the Bible Christian Church, the bridegroom being an Englishman aged 54 and the bride a native of Victoria. Other columns show disparities of age not so striking as this, but sufficiently so to merit notice. Of these may be pointed out, amongst others, the marriage of a man between 70 and 75 to a woman between 25 and 30; the marriage of a man between 75 and 80 to a woman between 40 and 45; the marriage of another man at the same age to a woman between 50 and 55; the marriage of a woman between 45 and 50 to a man between 21 and 25; and the marriage of a woman between 50 and 55 to a man between 30 and 35.

Marriage of minors.

27. Of the males 127, and of the females 1,434, who married in 1877 had not attained the full age of 21 years. The tendency of males to marry under age is much less and that of females is much greater in Victoria than in England and Wales.

Births, 1877.

28. The births registered in Victoria during 1877 numbered 26,010, as against 26,769 in 1876. The falling off in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 759.

Births in 1877 and former years.

29. The births were not only fewer in 1877 than in 1876, but were also fewer than in any other year to as far back as 1868. Prior to 1868, however, births were never so numerous in any year as those in 1877.*

Birth rate.

30. Births in 1877 were in the proportion of 30·60, and in 1876 of 32·23 to every 1,000 of the mean population.

Births of males and females.

31. The births of males in Victoria during 1877 numbered 13,272, those of females 12,738. These numbers furnish a proportion of 104·2 boys to 100 girls. In the previous 10 years 137,322 births of males and 131,852 births of females were registered, which gives a proportion of 104·1 boys to 100 girls.

Twins and triplets.

32. Cases in which twins were born numbered 209, and cases in which triplets were born numbered 2 in 1877. In the 12 years ended with that year, 2,969 cases of twins and 23 cases of triplets were recorded, the total number of births in the same period having been 320,194. There were thus 317,179 confinements in the 12 years, and it follows that 1 mother in every 107 gave birth to twins, and 1 mother in every 13,790 was delivered of three children at a birth.

Illegitimate births.

33. The illegitimate children born in 1877 numbered 1,275, or 1 in every 20 births registered. This is a proportion much above the average. The illegitimate births in 1876 were 1 in 27;

* For number of births in each year *see* Statistical Summary of Victoria, ante.

in 1875, 1 in 34; in 1874, 1 in 28; and in 1873, 1 in 31. In the last 12 years out of 320,194 infants born 10,079 were set down as having been born out of wedlock, which numbers furnish a proportion of 1 illegitimate child born to every 32 births.

Women living in concubinage.

34. According to a calculation, the basis of which I have more than once explained,* it follows from the number of legitimate children that, approximately, 82,173 married women at the fruitful or child-bearing age were living in the Colony during 1877, and from the number of births of illegitimate children that, exclusive of public prostitutes, who, as they rarely have children, are omitted from the computation, at least 4,236 single women at a similar period of life were living in concubinage. The total number of single women between 15 and 45 years of age may be estimated to have been 87,955 during the year. It therefore follows that 1 out of every 21 of these was living immorally.

Illegitimacy and concubinage, 1873 to 1877.

35. Immorality amongst single women, as shown by the records of illegitimacy, was never so rife in any year as it was in 1877. The numbers are found to fluctuate from year to year. The desire of a woman to conceal her shame and to protect her offspring from the social disabilities attaching to illegitimate birth may, and no doubt often do, impel her when supplying the information necessary for registering her child's birth to keep back the fact of its having been born out of wedlock, and this may occur with more frequency in some years than in others. Statistics of illegitimacy are for these and other reasons always more or less unreliable. It is certain that its extent is always as great as the returns indicate, but how much greater it may be there are no means of ascertaining.

Illegitimacy in Australasian Colonies.

36. Besides Victoria, the only Australasian Colonies which publish statistics of illegitimacy are apparently New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand. According to these, illegitimacy is most rife in New South Wales, and least so in New Zealand. Over a series of years the proportion of illegitimate children to every 100 born was 4·13 in New South Wales, 3·28 in Victoria, 3·01 in Queensland, and 1·58 in New Zealand.

Deaths, 1877.

37. The deaths in 1877 numbered 12,776, as against 13,561 in 1876. The decrease in the year under notice was thus 785.

Deaths, 1877 and former years.

38. The year in which more deaths occurred than in any other since the first settlement of the Colony was 1875, in which the number registered was 15,287. The next year in point of total mortality was 1876, and the next the year under notice.†

Excess of births over deaths.

39. The births in 1877 exceeded the deaths by 13,234, or 104 per cent. In the 11 years ended with 1877 the proportion was 129 per cent.

Deaths of males and females.

40. Deaths of males in 1877 numbered 7,345, and deaths of females 5,431. These numbers furnish a proportion of 74 females to every 100 males. Females in the total population or in the

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* *See* Victorian Year Book 1873, paragraph 286, and Victorian Year Book 1874, paragraph 490.

† For the number of deaths during each year since the first settlement of Port Phillip *see* Statistical Summary of Victoria, ante.

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proportion of 84 to every 100 males, therefore more males and fewer females died in 1877 than their relative numbers in the population might have given reason to expect.

Annual death rate.

41. The annual death-rate fluctuates considerably, but in all years presses more heavily upon males than upon females. In 1877 the proportion of deaths was 15·03 to every 1,000 persons living, or 15·91 deaths of males to every 1,000 males living, and 13·99 deaths of females to every 1,000 females living.

Normal death rate.

42. As, however favourable may be the circumstances for prolonging life, all must die at some time or other, it is evident that every country must have a death-rate; and it has been held that in countries in which the climate is healthy, hygiene properly attended to, and the population in a normal condition as regards age, the ordinary mortality incident to human nature would probably cause this death-rate to be in the proportion of about 17 per 1,000 persons living. In Victoria the mortality reached as high as this rate only twice in the last 11 years. In the last year it was two deaths below it per 1,000 persons living, and, according to the average annual mortality of the last 11 years, it was 1½ deaths below it per 1,000 persons living.

Deaths in each month.

43. The mortality in Victoria is usually greatest in the first five months and in the last month of the year. The relative mortality of the various months fluctuates, however, in different years. The following are the deaths in each month and their per-centage to the total mortality in 1877, also the per-centage of the deaths in each month during the decenniad which preceded that year to the total number of deaths which occurred in the same period.—

Deaths in each Period.

Months.	Year 1877.		Per-centage in Ten Years 1867 to 1876.
	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage.	
January - - -	1,170	9·16	10·68
February - - -	1,173	9·18	9·28
March - - -	1,211	9·48	10·63
April - - -	1,285	10·06	9·77
May - - -	1,094	8·56	8·61
June - - -	986	7·72	7·50
July - - -	1,010	7·91	7·75
August - - -	1,013	7·93	7·07
September - -	845	6·61	6·61
October - - -	930	7·28	6·84
November - -	984	7·70	6·75
December - -	1,075	8·41	8·51
Year - -	12,776	100·00	100·00

Deaths at different ages.

44. It always happens that both males and females under 5 and above 45 years of age die in larger proportions than their numbers in the population, but at ages between 5 and 45 the proportions dying of either sex are smaller than the corresponding

numbers at the same ages in the population. In 1877 rather less than half the males who died were under 25 years of age, and rather less than half the females who died were under 10 years of age.

Death rate at different ages.

45. In 1877 the death-rate of males under 5 years of age, between 15 and 25, and between 45 and 75 years of age exceeded that of females at the same periods of life. At the age periods between 5 and 15, between 25 and 45, and over 75 the death-rate of females exceeded that of males.

Deaths of octogenarians.

46. The persons who died at the age of 80 or upwards numbered 216 in 1877, as against 203 in 1876 and 186 in 1875. These in the year under review comprised 112 males and 104 females. Eleven males and 13 females had passed the age of 90, and 1 male and 2 females had passed the age of 100.

Infantile mortality, 1877.

47. The death-rate of infants in 1877 was above that in 1876, and was also slightly above the average. The total number who died under 1 year of age was 3,299, and as the births numbered 26,010, it follows that 1 infant died to every 8 births, or 12·68 infants to every 100 births. In the decennial period, 1867 to 1876, the proportion of infants dying before completing their first year was 12·20 to every 100 births.

Deaths of infants in Lying-in Hospital.

48. In the Lying-in Hospital, Melbourne, 490 children were born alive during 1877, and of these, 33, or not quite 7 per cent. died before leaving the institution. In 1876 and 1875 9 per cent., and in 1874 7 per cent. of the infants born in the Lying-in Hospital died therein.

Average age at death.

49. The average age at death in 1877 was 26·24 years, or 26 years and 3 months. For males the average age was 28·6, or 28 years and 7 months, and for females 23·06 years, or 23 years and 1 month. The average age at which both males and females die is becoming more advanced from year to year. This will be seen by the following figures:—

Average Age at Death.

—	Males.	Females.
	Years.	Years.
23 years, 1852 to 1875 - - -	21·70	15·01
Year 1875 - - - - -	24·28	18·23
„ 1876 - - - - -	26·81	21·84
„ 1877 - - - - -	28·60	23·06

Classification of causes of death.

50. The causes of death in Victoria as in the United Kingdom are arranged in classes and orders according to the system proposed by Dr. William Farr, F.R.S., of the General Register Office, London, in conjunction with Dr. Marc d'Espine, and first made public by the former in his report dated 15th February 1856 to the International Statistical Congress held in Paris in 1855–56.

Nosological index.

51. A Nosological Index was compiled by the present writer some years since to be used in connexion with this classification

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in order to facilitate the bringing of all the circumstances resulting in death under one or other of the heads of the list, also for the guidance of deputy registrars in receiving, and of medical men in supplying, information respecting the causes of death, and of officers of charitable and other public institutions in preparing statistical tables of the deaths and sickness occurring therein.

Victorian index used throughout Australia.

52. Since the introduction of this system into Victoria in 1861 it has been adopted in all the Australasian Colonies, and, as a consequence, the Nosological Index referred to has also come into use throughout the group.

Causes of death classified.

53. The following table shows, in classified arrangement, the causes of death and the numbers who died from each cause during 1877 and during the 23 years and a half ended with 1876 :—

Causes of Death in classified Arrangement. (23½ *Years*, 1853–1876, *and Year* 1877).

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			23½ Years, 1853–1876.	Year 1877.
		All causes - - - -	236,652	12,776
		Specified causes - - - -	235,095	12,763
		CLASSES.		
I.	—	Zymotic diseases - - - -	73,809	3,559
II.	—	Constitutional diseases - - -	30,639	1,834
III.	—	Local diseases - - - -	76,951	4,968
IV.	—	Developmental diseases - - -	33,774	1,553
V.	—	Violent deaths - - - -	19,922	849
		ORDERS.		
I.	1	Miasmatic diseases - - -	68,126	3,194
	2	Enthetic diseases - - - -	589	41
	3	Dietic diseases - - - -	3,802	237
	4	Parasitic diseases - - - -	1,292	87
II.	1	Diathetic diseases - - - -	6,070	434
	2	Tubercular diseases - - -	24,569	1,400
III.	1	Brain diseases - - - -	25,208	1,382
	2	Heart diseases - - - -	10,245	703
	3	Lung diseases - - - -	21,452	1,540
	4	Bowel diseases - - - -	16,384	1,018
	5	Kidney diseases - - - -	2,218	233
	6	Gennetic diseases - - - -	408	19
	7	Bone and muscle diseases - -	561	34
	8	Skin diseases - - - -	475	39
IV.	1	Developmental diseases of children -	11,646	452
	2	„ „ women -	2,289	139
	3	„ „ old people -	2,939	314
	4	Diseases of Nutrition - - -	16,900	648
V.	1	Accident - - - - -	18,064	726
	2	Battle - - - - -	—	—
	3	Homicide - - - - -	410	30
	4	Suicide - - - - -	1,378	92
	5	Execution - - - - -	70	1
		DISEASES, &c.		
I.	1	Small-pox - - - -	21	—
		Chicken-pox - - - -	40	—

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths. $23\frac{1}{2}$ Years, 1853–1876.	Number of Deaths. Year 1877.
		Measles	3,833	6
		Scarlatina	8,304	183
		Diphtheria	6,802	359
		Quinsy	553	14
		Croup	3,058	315
		Whooping cough	3,569	245
		Typhoid fever, &c.	9,544	532
		Erysipelas	861	70
		Metria	562	42
		Carbuncle, boil, &c.	51	3
		Influenza, coryza, catarrh	791	30
		Dysentery	11,795	254
		Diarrhœa	15,176	963
		Cholera	1,061	60
		Ague	77	6
		Remittent fever	649	4
		Rheumatism	1,038	79
		Miasmatic diseases, not classed	341	29
I.	2	Syphilis	459	31
		Gonorrhœa, stricture of the urethra	128	10
		Glanders	2	0
I.	3	Privation	361	16
		Want of breast-milk	1,606	149
		Puerpura and scurvy	244	11
		Alcoholism	1,566	61
		Other dietic diseases	25	—
I.	4	Thrush	859	48
		Worms, &c.	55	1
		Hydatids	362	37
		Other parasitic diseases	16	1
II.	1	Gout	120	18
		Dropsy	1,863	41
		Cancer	3,207	329
		Tumour	316	20
II.	1	Polypus	7	1
		Noma	54	4
		Mortification	336	21
		Other diathetic diseases	167	—
II.	2	Scrofula	886	55
		Tabes mesenterica	1,951	77
		Phthisis	17,423	1,088
		Hydrocephalus	3,675	138
		Other tubercular diseases	634	42
III.	1	Cephalitis	3,670	237
		Apoplexy	3,992	274
		Paralysis	1,881	180
		Insanity	253	1
		Chorea	34	—
		Epilepsy	884	66
		Convulsions	8,700	332
		Other diseases of the nervous system	5,794	292
III.	2	Pericarditis	587	46
		Aneurism	1,224	84
		Other diseases of the circulatory system	8,434	573
III.	3	Laryngitis	690	52
		Bronchitis	6,734	464
		Pleurisy	1,217	100
		Pneumonia	9,161	629
		Congestion of the lungs, pulmonary apoplexy	1,812	188
		Asthma	563	42

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths. 23½ Years, 1853–1876.	Year 1877.
		Other diseases of the respiratory system	1,275	65
III.	4	Gastritis	2,079	151
		Enteritis	4,361	194
		Peritonitis	1,302	81
		Ascites	375	22
		Ulceration of intestines	334	20
		Hernia	333	16
		Ileus	611	60
		Intussusception	141	11
		Stricture of intestines	58	3
		Fistula	34	2
		Stomach diseases, undefined	1,077	54
		Pancreas disease	12	—
		Hepatitis	1,922	80
		Jaundice, gall-stone	703	51
		Liver diseases, not defined	2,966	272
		Spleen disease	76	1
III.	5	Nephritis	285	21
		Ischuria	51	3
		Nephria	595	92
		Diabetes	176	10
		Stone, gravel	75	6
		Cystitis	202	28
		Other diseases of the urinary organs	834	73
III.	6	Ovarian dropsy	88	1
		Other diseases of the generative organs	320	18
III.	7	Arthritis	115	5
		Ostitis, periostitis	25	5
		Other diseases of the locomotive system	421	24
III.	8	Phlegmon, whitlow	46	1
		Ulcer	144	9
		Other diseases of the skin	285	29
IV.	1	Premature birth	4,150	290
		Cyanosis	264	22
		Spina bifida	189	15
		Other malformations	569	28
		Teething	6,463	97
		Other developmental diseases of children	11	—
IV.	2	Paramenia	70	8
		Childbirth	2,218	131
		Other developmental diseases of adults	1	—
IV.	3	Old age	2,939	314
IV.	4	Atrophy and debility	16,900	648
V.	1	Fractures, contusions, &c.	6,012	334
		Wounds	418	28
		Burns and scalds	1,829	101
		Sunstroke	331	23
		Struck by lightning	27	4
		Poison	309	21
		Snake or insect bite	58	5
		Drowning	4,007	150
		Suffocation	1,336	53
		Other or unspecified accidents	3,737	7
V.	3	Murder and manslaughter	410	30
V.	4	Wounds	423	30
		Poison	265	15
		Drowning	262	22
		Hanging	379	19
		Suicide by other means	49	6
V.	5	Judicial hanging	70	1
		Causes not specified	1,557	13

54. Zymotic diseases in 1877 were below the average in point of fatality. Of the most prominent complaints under this head, croup, whooping-cough, and diarrhœa were the only ones in the year under review which, in proportion to the population, caused deaths in excess of the mean of the preceding 23½ years. The first-named caused 315 deaths, or the largest number in a period of 14 years, the second caused 245 deaths, which was exceeded in four of the previous 13 years, and the last caused 963 deaths which was exceeded in three years of the same period. Zymotic diseases.

55. The mortality from typhoid fever, although below the average of the 23 years ended with 1876, was greater in 1877 than in any year of the previous decenniad. This complaint appears to press more heavily upon females than upon males. In the 11 years ended with 1877 the sexes died of it in nearly equal numbers, whereas such an approach to equality was never reached in the population, and in the four years ended with 1876 the females who died of it actually exceeded the males. Typhoid fever.

56. The complaints referred to in the last two paragraphs belong to Order 1, miasmatic diseases. Deaths occasioned by diseases under the other three orders of the zymotic type were above the average; the complaints which caused the excess under Order 2, enthetic diseases, being venereal diseases; the chief causes under Order 3, dietic diseases, being want of breast-milk, and alcoholism (drunkenness); and that under Order 4, parasitic diseases, being hydatids. Enthetic, dietic, and parasitic diseases.

57. Of deaths under Class II., constitutional diseases, those under Order 1, diathetic diseases, were above the average, chiefly from the prevalence of cancer, which caused 329 deaths, and stood eleventh in order of fatality, the twenty-second place being its usual position. Deaths under Order 2, tubercular diseases, the most fatal of which is phthisis, were taken, as a whole, below the average. Constitutional diseases.

58. Deaths from phthisis in 1877 numbered 1,088, which is a larger number than was ever previously recorded in any year. A greater mortality in 1876 resulted from scarlatina, and in 1875 from measles, than from phthisis, but these epidemics having subsided, phthisis in 1877 resumed its place at the head of the list of causes of death, thus showing itself to have been in that year, as in nearly every other, the most destructive of all complaints. Deaths from phthisis.

59. The annual death rate from phthisis, has never been so low as 11, nor so high as 13, per 10,000 persons living. In 1877 the rate reached to 12·80 per 10,000 which was nearer the higher of those numbers than in any year except 1869. Death rate from phthisis.

60. Phthisis, both in 1876 and 1877, proved more fatal to males than to females; females in the latter year having died of it in the proportion of not quite 77 to 100 males, whereas in the population females existed in the proportion of 84 to 100 males. It is probable however, that males at the phthisical ages bore a higher proportion to the total number of males living in the Colony than females at those ages bore to the total number of females. Sex of those who died from phthisis.

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Age at death from phthisis.

61. About 85 per cent. of the deaths from phthisis of both males and females occurred between the ages of 15 and 55; 2 per cent. of the males and 7 per cent. of the females died at under 15 years of age, and 13 per cent. of the males and 8 per cent. of the females died at over 55 years of age.

Death rate from phthisis in Melbourne.

62. The death rate from phthisis in Melbourne and suburbs is much higher than that of the whole Colony, and increases from year to year. It is higher than that in Ireland, not so high as that in Scotland, but approximates closely to that of England and Wales. The following are the figures for the last five years:—

Deaths from Phthisis per 10,000 *persons living in Melbourne and Suburbs.*

1873 - - - -	20·51
1874 - - - -	22·04
1875 - - - -	21·46
1876 - - - -	22·46
1877 - - - -	22·74
Mean	21·84

Local diseases.

63. Under Class III., local diseases, deaths from brain diseases, Order 1 were much below the average in the year under review. Deaths from diseases of the circulatory, Order 2, and of the respiratory system, Order 3, were considerably above the average, those of the latter chiefly caused by the increase of pneumonia, which rose from the seventh to the fifth place, and that of bronchitis, which rose from the twelfth to the eighth place in order of fatality. Deaths from diseases of the stomach and bowels, Order 4, and of the bone and muscle, Order 7, were about equal to the average; gennetic diseases, Order 6, were somewhat lower than usual; whilst diseases of the urinary organs, Order 5, and of the skin, Order 8, show large increase.

Developmental diseases.

64. Developmental diseases, Class IV., were very much less fatal than usual, and only caused about 18 deaths per 10,000 living, as against 24 per 10,000 in the previous 23½ years. Under Order 1, developmental diseases of children, the mortality was much below the average, the chief complaint, teething, occupying the thirtieth place in order of fatality, its usual place being the thirteenth. Developmental diseases of adults, Order 2, were in point of fatality, exactly up to the average. The chief cause of death under this head is childbirth, which will presently be considered in connexion with metria. Deaths from old age, Order 3, numbered 314, which is much above the average; that entry stood in 1877 thirteenth in order of fatality, the twenty-fifth being its average place. Deaths under the head of atrophy and debility, Order 4, although always high, were in 1877, as in the previous year, below the average. The number set down was 648, and its place in order of fatality the fourth, its usual position being the third. The mortality under this head is almost entirely confined to young children and infants, 589 of the victims having

been under 5 years of age, of whom 530 were under one year, and 241 under one month.

Atrophy and debility.

65. Large numbers of deaths of young children are each year set down to atrophy and debility, frequently no doubt from want of better information respecting the primary diseases. Notwithstanding the proportions of the sexes of the persons at ages to be affected are about equal, in all the years more males die from these complaints than females. During a period of 11 years, 88 females died of atrophy and debility to every 100 males.

Violent deaths.

66. Deaths from external causes, Class V., numbered 849, which is much below the average. It will be readily believed that violent deaths are not so common now as they were in the early days of the gold discoveries. Deaths from accidents, Order 1, numbered 726, or about six-sevenths of the whole. Although 30 deaths were set down to murder or manslaughter, Order 2, only 1 execution, Order 4, took place during the year. Persons who committed self-destruction, Order 3, numbered 92, which is in excess of the average.

Violent deaths; in proportion to population.

67. During the 11 years ended with 1877, 73,885 males and 54,680 females died of specified causes, and of the males 1 in every 10 died a violent death; 1 to every 11 died of an accident; 1 to every 509 was a victim of homicide; 1 in every 99 committed suicide; and 1 in every 2,239 was executed. Of the females, 1 in every 28 died a violent death; 1 in every 33 died of an accident: 1 in every 628 died by the hand of another; 1 in every 338 committed suicide; but, happily, not one was executed.

Violent deaths of males and females.

68. Males are much more subject to deaths from external causes than females. Of those who died from such causes in 1877, 649, or 76 per cent., belonged to the male, and 200, or 24 per cent., to the female sex.

Violent deaths; proportion of males and females.

69. Omitting fractions, it may be roughly stated that, where 1 female dies a violent death in Victoria, 4 males die violent deaths; where 1 female dies of an accident, 4 males die of accidents; where 1 female is murdered, about 2 males are murdered; where 1 female commits suicide, 5 males do so; only one woman has been executed in the Colony since its first settlement. In the 11 years ended with 1877 33 males were executed.

Burns and scalds.

70. The only violent deaths which habitually affect females more than males are those resulting from burns and scalds. All other circumstances which occasion such deaths bear more hardly upon males than upon females.

Suicidal deaths.

71. Ninety-two persons took their own lives in 1877, and 100 in the previous year. Both these numbers are above the average. During the 10 years ended with 1876 the mean annual number of deaths by suicide was 82.

Modes of committing suicide.

72. Hanging is the most common mode by which men commit suicide, cutting or stabbing the next, drowning and taking poison with almost equal frequency the next, shooting the next. Females most frequently take their lives by drowning, next so by taking poison, next by cutting or stabbing, next by hanging, and only once in 162 cases by shooting.

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Deaths in childbed.

73. Deaths of parturient women should be considered in connexion with the number of births instead of with the population, as in the case of deaths from most other causes. They are classified in two ways. If the death is supposed to occur merely from the consequences of childbearing without specific disease it is set down as of childbirth, Class IV., Order 2, but if it should arise from puerperal fever it is placed under the head of metria, Clase I., Order 1. The deaths from childbearing have been more numerous in proportion to the births during the last five years than they were previously; but except in 1874 and 1875, the rate has never been so high as in the year under review. The following is the death rate from these complaints during the last 11 years :—

Deaths of Women in Childbirth, 1867 *to* 1877.

Year.	Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children born alive.
1867	53·50
1868	48·82
1869	47·23
1870	45·67
1871	37·25
1872	50·80
1873	60·85
1874	93·66
1875	88·70
1876	61·64
1877	66·51
Average of eleven years.	59·46

Deaths in childbed in United Kingdom.

74. The proportion of women dying in childbed during the whole period of 11 years was 1 to 168 births, but in 1877 the proportion was 1 to every 150 births. In 1876 the proportion was 1 to every 162 births; in 1875, 1 to every 113 births; and in 1874, 1 to every 107 births. All these proportions are higher than those in England and Wales, where in the 28 years ended with 1874 200 births occurred to each death of a mother. In Scotland, during 1873, 1 woman is stated to have died in childbirth to every 207 births, and in Ireland, during 1875, 1 to every 138 births. The former rate is not as high as, and the latter is higher than, the average rate in Victoria.

Deaths of women in Lying-in Hospital.

75. In the Melbourne Lying-in-Hospital, during 1877, 520 women were confined, and 490 infants were born alive. Eight deaths of mothers occurred during or shortly after parturition. Thus 1 death of a mother occurred to every 65 deliveries, or to every 61 births.

Sickness and deaths in general hospitals.

76. There are 32 general hospitals in Victoria, 8 of which are also benevolent asylums. The total number of cases of sickness treated in these institutions during 1877 was 14,810, and the number of deaths was 1,550. In the previous year the cases of sickness treated numbered 14,774, and the deaths 1,537.

77. In proportion to the cases treated, the greatest mortality in 1876 occurred in the Melbourne Hospital, and the least in the Wood's Point Hospital. In 1877 the highest per-centage of mortality occurred in the Warrnambool Hospital, and the lowest in the Clunes Hospital. Highest and lowest death rates.

78. The patients treated in the hospital for diseases of women and children attached to the Lying-in Hospital numbered 213 in 1876, and 251 in 1877. The deaths in the same institution numbered 7 in the former and 14 in the latter year. Therefore, 1 patient in 30 died in 1876, and 1 in 18 in 1877. Sickness and deaths in hospital for women.

79. In the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital 407 women were confined in 1876, and 520 in 1877. Six died in the former year, and 8 in the latter. Thus, 1 woman in 68 died in 1876, and 1 woman in 65 in 1877. Deaths in Lying-in Hospital.

80. In the Melbourne Hospital for sick children 118 cases were treated, and 17 deaths occurred in 1876; 273 cases were treated, and 17 deaths occurred in 1877. These numbers furnish proportions of 1 death to every 7 patients in the former, and 1 death to every 16 patients in the latter year. Sickness and deaths in Children's Hospital.

81. Cases of sickness in benevolent asylums numbered 2,421 in 1876, and 2,514 in 1877; deaths numbered 152 and 157. The deaths were thus to the cases treated in the proportion of 1 to 16 in both years. Sickness and deaths in benevolent asylums.

82. In the Melbourne Immigrants Home the cases of sickness in 1876 amounted to 649, and the deaths to 67, or 1 death to every 10 cases of sickness. In 1877, the cases of sickness in this institution numbered 636, and the deaths 70, or 1 death to every 9 cases of sickness. Sickness and deaths in Immigrants' Home.

83. In 1876 the cases of sickness in orphan asylums numbered 449 and the deaths 22. In 1877 these numbers were 372 and 6 respectively. Thus in 1876 1 death occurred to every 20 cases of sickness, and in 1877 1 death to every 62 cases of sickness. Sickness and deaths in orphan asylums.

84. In hospitals for the insane during 1876 the cases of sickness amounted to 1,779, and during 1877 to 1,951. The deaths numbered 185 at the former period, and 197 at the latter, or an average of 1 death to about every 10 cases of sickness at both periods. Sickness and deaths in lunatic asylums.

85. The cases of sickness treated in the industrial and reformatory schools numbered 1,295 in 1876, and 20 deaths occurred. In 1877, 832 cases were treated, and 15 deaths took place. The deaths were, therefore, to the cases of disease in the proportion of 1 to every 65 in the former, and of 1 to every 55 in the latter year. Sickness and deaths in industrial schools.

86. In gaols and penal establishments 5,363 cases of sickness occurred in 1876, and 5,078 in 1877. The deaths in these two years respectively were 62 and 37. Thus one death occurred to every 87 cases in 1876, and one death to every 137 cases in 1877. The proportions of deaths to cases of sickness are smaller in these than in any other public institutions; but it is also probable that the cases of sickness dealt with are, on the average, of a lighter character than those treated in the other institutions. Sickness and deaths in gaol.

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Deaths in public institutions.

87. The number of deaths in penal or charitable institutions in 1877 was 2,117, or one to every six deaths which took place in Victoria during the year. The deaths in such institutions were in 1876 in the proportion of 1 to every $6\frac{1}{2}$, in 1875 in that of 1 to every $7\frac{1}{3}$, and in 1874 and 1873 in that of 1 to every 6 deaths which took place in the whole Colony. The following are the names of the institutions and the number of deaths which occurred in each during 1877 :—

Deaths in Public Institutions, 1877.

	Number of Deaths.
General hospitals - - - -	1,550
Hospitals for diseases of women and children -	14
Lying-in Hospital - - - -	41*
Hospital for Sick Children - - -	17
Benevolent asylums - - - -	157
Melbourne Immigrants' Home - - -	70
Orphan asylums - - - -	6
Blind Asylum - - - - -	1
Hospitals for the insane - - -	197
Female refuges - - - -	12†
Industrial and reformatory schools - -	15
Gaols - - - - -	33
Penal establishments - - - -	44
Total - -	2,117

Note.—In 1877 no death occurred in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, or the Eye and Ear Hospital.

Vaccinations.

88. The number of cases of successful vaccination in 1877 was 22,559, and as the number of births was 26,010, it appears that 87 per cent. of the children born were vaccinated. Part of the remainder are accounted for by death. 1,539, or 6 per cent. of those born, having died before they were three months old, and 2,298, or $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., before they were six months old. The vaccinations amounted in 1876 to 80 per cent. of the births, in 1875 to 82 per cent., in 1874 to 83 per cent., and in 1873 to something less than 80 per cent.

Finance account, 1876–7.

89. The financial year 1876–7 commenced with a debit balance of about 159,000*l.*, but the receipts during the year were sufficient not only to provide for all the expenses of the year, but also to wipe out this deficiency, and to admit of a credit balance of

* This includes the deaths of 33 children born in the institution.

† This includes the deaths of 10 children of inmates of the Female Refuge Madeline Street.

207,000*l.* being carried forward to 1877–8. The following are the exact figures:—

Finance Account, 1876–7.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net receipts - - - - -	4,723,876	10	0
Net expenditure - - - - -	4,358,095	11	11
Receipts in excess of expenditure - -	365,780	18	1
Debit balance from 1875–6 brought forward -	158,892	17	8
Credit balance to carry forward to 1877–8 -	206,888	0	5

Recoups.

90. It should be mentioned that portion of the receipts of a year often consists of recoups from loans for expenditure previously defrayed under votes. Such amounts, being merely refunds of portion of the expenditure of former years, are not strictly speaking revenue, although for convenience sake it is customary to consider them as forming part thereof. The following figures show the unusually large extent to which the receipts for 1876–7 were augmented from this source:—

Revenue and Recoups, 1876–7.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue proper - - - -	4,513,737	14	3
Recoups - - - -	210,138	15	9
Total receipts - -	4,723,876	10	0

Excess of receipts, and contrary.

91. In the three financial years immediately preceding 1876–7 the expenditure was in excess of the receipts, but in the two years again prior to those the receipts were in excess. The following figures show the surplus or deficiency in each of the six years:—

—	Receipts in Excess of Expenditure.	Expenditure in Excess of Receipts.
	£	£
1871–2 - -	74,888	—
1872–3 - -	139,182	—
1873–4 - -	—	70,548
1874–5 - -	—	81,697
1875–6 - -	—	247,687
1876–7 - -	365,781	—

Large excess of expenditure, 1875–6.

92. The large excess of expenditure over receipts in 1875–6 was partly due to the circumstance that amounts were advanced over and above the expenses legitimately chargeable to the revenue, but were not recouped during the year. The fact that recoups for these advances were made in the year following accounts for the receipts of 1876–7 being so greatly in excess of the expenditure.

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Amount of credit balance in six years.

93. It will be observed that the transactions of the sexennial period have resulted in a net credit balance amounting to 179,919*l.*

Large revenue and expenditure, 1876–7.

94. The revenue of 1876–7 was the largest amount ever raised in the Colony in any financial year, and exceeded that of 1875–6 by 398,721*l.* if recoups be included, or by 188,582*l.* if they be not included. The expenditure of 1876–7 was less than that of 1875–6 by 214,748*l.*, but was greater than that of any other year.*

Revenue and expenditure per head.

95. The revenue of 1876–7 compared with the population amounted to 5*l.* 12*s.* 6½*d.* per head, and the expenditure of the same year to 5*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* per head.

Heads of revenue.

96. The following are the heads of revenue in Victoria for the last two financial years, and the amounts received under each head :—

Heads of Revenue, 1875–6 *and* 1876–7.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.	
	1875–6.	1876–7.
	£	£
Customs	1,657,788	1,631,832
Excise	33,437	34,768
Ports and harbours	22,104	20,993
Licenses (business)	10,712	11,688
Duties on estates of deceased persons	48,963	44,103
„ on bank notes	7,191	27,248
Mint	18,354	14,616
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money)	781,749	781,747
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money)	185,096	210,436
Penalties under Land Acts	53,167	54,233
Railways	983,033	1,078,082
Water supply	92,947	100,219
Public works (exclusive of railways and water supply)	6,042	5,690
Post and telegraphs	209,213	226,597
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties)	112,664	121,676
Rents (ordinary)	674	730
Reimbursements in aid	37,739	34,492
Interest and exchange	48,086	95,106
Miscellaneous receipts	16,197	19,482
Recoups from loans, from expenditure defrayed under votes	—	210,139
Total	4,325,156	4,723,877

Heads of expenditure.

97. The following are the heads of expenditure during the last two financial years, and the amounts expended under each head :—

* Figures showing the revenue and expenditure of each year, from the first settlement of the Colony, will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria, ante.

Heads of Expenditure, 1875–6 *and* 1876–7.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount expended.	
	1875–6.	1876–7.
	£	£
Legislature	57,521	58,807
Civil establishment	100,130	102,444
Judicial and legal	170,594	171,682
Public instruction, science, &c.	572,675	490,409
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	270,318	278,970
Mining	38,153	37,543
Police	199,738	197,371
Gaols and penal establishments	61,051	60,008
Mint	20,000	18,333
Crown lands and survey	139,070	164,011
Railways	489,751	565,473
Water supply	80,849	18,099
Public works	680,219	552,987
Customs	56,311	56,186
Harbours and lights	34,703	29,980
Defences	58,233	74,020
Post and telegraphs	301,909	360,398
Retiring allowances, pensions, &c.	34,101	36,917
Redemption of loans	—	—
Interest	793,600	818,670
Civil list	71,227	29,604
Aborigines	6,100	7,500
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account	300,000	200,000
Miscellaneous services	36,590	28,684
Total	4,572,843	4,358,096

98. The amounts of which the revenue is made up are of two classes, viz., those raised by taxations and those raised otherwise. The former class consists of customs and excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, tolls, business licenses, duties on bank notes, and duties on estates of deceased persons. Of the latter class are the amounts derived from the sale or occupation of crown lands from railways, water supply, and other public works, from post and telegraph offices, from fees, fines and forfeitures, from the labour of prisoners, from the interest on the public account, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian revenue for the financial year under review based upon this principle:— Taxation.

Revenue of Victoria, 1876–7.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amount raised by taxation	1,770,684	14	9
Amount raised otherwise	2,953,191	15	3
Total	4,723,876	10	0

99. The proportion raised by taxation amounted to 37½ per cent. of the whole revenue if the recoups already referred to be considered to form part thereof, and 39 per cent. if they be not Proportion of revenue raised by taxation.

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so considered. Both these proportions are smaller than the proportion in 1875–6, when the taxation amounted to 41 per cent. of the total revenue.

Taxation per head.

100. The amount raised by taxation divided by the estimated mean population of the financial year gives an average of 2*l.* 2*s.* 2¼*d.* to each individual.

Municipal revenue and expenditure.

101. In connexion with the general revenue, taxation, and expenditure of Victoria, the local or municipal revenue, taxation, and expenditure should also be considered. The following table gives a statement of the revenue and expenditure of both descriptions of municipalities in the year 1877 :—

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure, 1877.

——	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Revenue.			
From Government - -	54,373	265,795	320,168
„ rates - - -	202,609	178,971	381,580
„ tolls - - -	30,408	26,669	57,077
„ licenses - -	70,463	37,904	108,367
„ registration of dogs and goats - -	5,288	5,555	10,843
„ market dues - -	32,462	280	32,742
„ other sources - -	63,505	20,322	83,827
Total - -	459,108	535,496	994,604
Expenditure.			
Public works - -	250,776	384,259	635,035
Salaries, &c. - - -	42,609	56,728	99,337
Other expenditure - -	141,389	76,501	217,890
Total - -	434,774	517,488	952,262

Government subsidy to municipalities.

102. Both kinds of districts were subsidized by the State less heavily in the year under review than in the previous one, as will be seen by the following figures :—

Municipalities, 1876 *and* 1877.—*Receipts from Government.*

——	1876.	1877.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Cities, towns, and boroughs -	61,872	54,373	7,499
Shires - - - - -	294,840	265,795	29,045
Total - - -	356,712	320,168	36,544

103. The Government subsidy formed 14 per cent. of the revenue of cities, towns, and boroughs in 1876, but less than 12 per cent. in 1877. It formed about 50 per cent of the revenue of shires in both years.

Proportion of Government subsidy to revenue.

104. Payments for salaries formed about 10 per cent. of the expenditure of cities, towns, and boroughs both in 1876 and 1877. The same item formed 10 per cent. of the expenditure of shires in 1876, and about 11 per cent. in 1877.

Salaries in municipalities.

105. In 1876 the expenditure of 20, and in 1877 that of 17 of the individual cities, towns, and boroughs, was greater than the revenue; but, notwithstanding this, the revenue of these municipalities, taken as a whole, exceeded the expenditure by over 5 per cent. in the former, and by over 5½ per cent. in the latter year. The expenditure of 43 of the individual shires in 1876, and that of 41 in 1877, exceeded the revenue of the same districts; but nevertheless the total revenue of shires exceeded their total expenditure by 2 per cent. in 1876, and by nearly 3½ per cent. in 1877.

Total revenue of municipalities in excess of expenditure.

106. A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the general government added to those of the municipal government during the last two years will be found in the following table. From the totals of municipal revenue and expenditure the amounts granted by the State have in all cases been deducted. It will be observed that the amounts raised and the amounts expended annually for general and local purposes have each averaged, during the last two years, rather more than 5,000,000*l.* sterling:—

General and local revenue and expenditure.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1876 *and* 1877.

	Total Amounts received and expended.	
	1876.	1877.
Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General government - -	4,325,156 9 1	4,723,876 10 0
Municipal government - -	684,690 14 11	674,435 16 0
Total - -	5,009,847 4 0	5,398,312 6 0
Expenditure.		
General government - -	4,572,843 10 9	4,358,095 11 11
Municipal government - -	649,654 10 10	632,094 3 9
Total - -	5,222,498 1 7	4,990,189 15 8

107. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same two years. It will be observed that in 1876–7 the local revenue amounted to about 16*s.* per head, and the general and local revenue combined to nearly 6*l.* 9*s.* per head.

General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

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General and Local Revenue and Expenditure per head, 1876, 1877.

	Amounts received and expended per Head.	
	1876.	1877.
Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General government	5 5 2½	5 12 6½
Municipal government	0 16 7¾	0 16 0¾
Total	6 1 10¼	6 8 7¼
Expenditure.		
General government	5 11 2¾	5 3 10
Municipal government	0 15 9¾	0 15 0¾
Total	6 7 0½	5 18 10¾

General and local taxation.

108. The amount of taxation under the general and local government is given in the following table for the same two years, the items being specified in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained.* The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by rejecting—besides all grants received from the general government—rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls, &c., the balance being considered as taxation :—

General and Local Taxation, 1876 *and* 1877.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount received.	
	1876.	1877.
General Government Taxation.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs duties	1,550,460 14 5	1,522,794 18 6
Wharfage rates	107,327 5 11	109,036 15 5
Ports and harbours	22,104 1 0	20,993 4 2
Spirits distilled in Victoria	33,437 5 9	34,768 3 8
Licenses (not territorial)	10,711 18 9	11,687 18 11
Duties on estates of deceased persons	48,963 3 2	44,103 7 1
Duties on bank notes	7,190 19 0	27,248 4 6
Toll receipts	196 9 3	52 2 6
Total	1,780,391 17 3	1,770,684 14 9
Municipal Government Taxation.		
Rates	359,265 18 2	381,579 15 7
Toll receipts	61,055 9 6	57,077 8 5
Licenses	108,752 17 1	108,367 0 7
Registration of dogs and goats	10,782 13 6	10,843 2 5
Market dues	31,248 5 6	32,742 4 5
Total	571,105 3 9	590,609 11 5
Total general and local taxation	2,351,497 1 0	2,361,294 6 2

* *See* paragraph 98, *ante*.

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109. The general and local taxation taken together represented in 1875–6 a proportion of 2*l.* 17*s.* 2¼*d.* per head to each individual in the community, and in 1876–7 a proportion of 2*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* per head. General and local taxation per head.

110. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1877, to 17,011,382*l.* This consisted of— Public debt.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures - -	15,993,220	0	0
Stock - - -	1,018,162	9	5
Total - -	17,011,382	9	5

111. The following is the condition of the loan account, and the steps whereby it reached its present amount:— Loan account.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amount authorised to be borrowed -	18,683,100	0	0
Less stock unsold - 81,719 8 7			
Less amount repaid 1,603,100 0 0			
	1,684,819	8	7
	16,998,280	11	5
Increase by bonus paid on conversion of 5 and 6 per cent. debentures into 4 per cent stock - - - -	13,101	18	0
Total - - -	17,011,382	9	5

112. The debt was contracted for the following purposes:— Purposes for which debt was incurred.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Construction of railways - -	13,515,886	9	5
Water supply, Melbourne and suburbs	462,771	0	0
Provincial water supply, graving dock, and other public works - -	2,332,725	0	0
Defences - - - -	100,000	0	0
State school buildings - - -	600,000	0	0
	17,011,382	9	5

113. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed:— Rates of interest.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
6 per cent. - -	9,073,320	0	0
5 per cent. - -	2,419,900	0	0
4 per cent. - -	5,518,162	9	5
Total - -	17,011,382	9	5

114. On the 30th June 1877 the estimated population of Victoria was 849,021. If the amount of debt at the same period (17,011,382*l.*) be divided by this number, the proportionate in- Indebtedness per head.

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debtedness of each man, woman, and child in the Colony will be shown to have been 20*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* As compared with the amounts on the 30th June 1876, the total debt shows an increase of 3,014,559*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, and the average indebtedness per head shows an increase of 3*l.* 3*s.* 2¼*d.*

Interest on debt per head.

115. The interest on the public debt represented a charge of 1*l.* 1*s.* 1¼*d.* per head of the mean population of 1876–7, as against a charge of 18*s.* 7½*d.* per head in 1875–6.

Proportion of interest to revenue.

116. The interest on the public debt in 1876–7 amounted to nearly 19 per cent. of the total revenue, and in 1875–6 to something less than 18 per cent. of the revenue.

Expenses of debt.

117. The expenses connected with the public debt, consisting chiefly of premium on remittances to London and commission, viz., ½ per cent. on interest payable thereat, amounted to 8,483*l.* in 1876–7, as against 7,221*l.* in the previous year.

Expenditure on public works.

118. During the last 27 years nearly 34,000,000*l.* sterling have been expended by the general government on public works, including railways, roads, and bridges, Melbourne and country water supply, and other works and buildings. Of this amount 1,500,000*l.* was spent in 1877. The whole is exclusive of the sums expended by local bodies on public works, roads, &c., and by the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company and its predecessors on the construction and maintenance of their lines. The following table gives the amounts expended by the State prior to and during 1877 :—

Expenditure on Public Works.

Public Works.	Amount expended.		
	Prior to 1877.	During 1877.	Total.
	£	£	£
Victorian railways - -	14,722,456	1,019,201	15,741,657
Roads and bridges - -	6,840,508	16,759	6,857,267
Melbourne water supply (Yan Yean) - - -	1,398,564	39,565	1,438,129
Other waterworks - -	1,569,858	170,374	1,740,232
Other public works - -	7,593,260	258,638	7,851,898
Total - - -	32,124,646	1,504,537	33,629,183

Land forces.

119. The land forces of Victoria embrace a paid artillery corps and the various volunteer corps, consisting of the cavalry, artillery, rifle, engineer, and torpedo and signal arms of the service. The following was the strength of the land forces at the end of 1877 :—

Land Forces—Strength and Establishment.

Officers - - - -	237
Sergeants - - - -	246
Rank and file - - -	3,230
Total - - -	3,713

Naval forces.

120. The naval forces consist of the war ships *Cerberus* and *Nelson*, also of a naval reserve, the men of which receive a small fee as a retainer.

Ships of war.

121. The *Cerberus* is an ironclad, having two turrets; she is 235 feet long, is of 2,107 tons measurement, and has engines of 250 horse-power; she was built expressly for the Colony in 1868, and was brought out through the Suez Canal in the following year; her cost was about 175,000*l.*, of which 100,000*l.* was defrayed by the Imperial Government. The *Nelson* is a wooden line-of-battle ship, and was presented to the Colony by the Imperial Government; the cost of her outfit, passage, &c., amounting to about 30,000*l.*, was paid by the Colony; her length is 220 feet, and she measures 2,736 tons. This vessel is now being cut down with the view of making her more efficient for coast and harbour defence.

Strength of naval forces.

122. The strength of the naval forces at the end of 1877 was as follows:—

Officers - - - -	23
Petty officers and seamen - -	305
Boys - - - - -	16
	344

Expenditure on defences.

123. In the 23½ years ended with 1876–7, 2,206,128*l.* was spent on defences, of which 74,020 was expended in the past year.

Pensions.

124. The pensioners on the list in 1877 numbered 153, and the amount of their pensions was 26,410*l.*, or an average of 172*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* to each recipient.

Royal Mint.

125. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872. From the time of its opening to the end of 1877, 2,159,167 ounces of gold were received thereat, valued at 8,590,159*l.* The gold received in 1877 amounted to 378,310 ounces valued at 1,491,819*l.*

Number of banks and rates of exchange.

126. There are 13 banks of issue in Victoria, possessing therein 324 branches or agencies. The average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places were as follow in 1877:—

Rates of Exchange, 1877.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.
London - - - - -	Par to 1½ per cent. premium.
British India - - - -	5 per cent. premium, 2*s.* per rupee.
New South Wales - - -	3*s.* 9*d.* to ½ per cent. premium.
Queensland - - - -	9*s.* 3*d.* to 1 „ „
South Australia - - - -	2*s.* 6*d.* to ½ „ „
Tasmania - - - -	¼ to ½ per cent. premium.
New Zealand - - - -	3*s.* to ½ per cent. premium.

Liabilities, assets, &c. of banks.

127. The banks are required to furnish sworn statements of their assets, liabilities, capital, and profits quarterly. The following figures show the average of the four statements furnished during 1877:—

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Position of Banks, 1877.

Liabilities—	£
Notes in circulation	1,350,114
Bills in circulation	70,254
Balances due to other banks	259,223
Deposits not bearing interest	4,980,155
Deposits bearing interest	11,523,373
Total	18,183,119
Assets—	
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	2,109,793
Gold and silver in bullion and bars	328,864
Landed property	796,605
Notes and bills of other banks	143,425
Balances due from other banks	386,491
Debts due to the banks*	22,493,261
Total	26,258,439

Capital and Profits—	£
Capital stock paid up	8,756,894
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by banks	10¼ per cent.
Average rate of interest per annum paid to shareholders	11·689 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared	511,810
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend	2,739,862

Interest on deposits with banks.

128. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the Victorian banks for a period of 12 months ranged in 1877 from 5 to 6 per cent.

Savings banks.

129. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the ordinary savings banks, which were first established in 1842, and the post office savings banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1877, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates:—

Savings Banks, 1877.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Depositors' Balances.	
			Total Amount.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Post Office savings banks	166	44,361	652,089	14 14 0
Ordinary savings banks	11	28,884	923,216	31 19 3
Total	177	73,245	1,575,305	21 10 1¾

* Including notes, bills of exchange, and all other stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills, and balances due from one bank to another.

130. During the 17 years ended with 1877, the sums advanced on mortgage of landed property have amounted in the aggregate to 47,863,164*l.*, and the sums included in the mortgages paid off have amounted in all to 24,025,670*l.* The balance is 23,837,494*l.*, or about half the amount originally advanced. Part of this balance represents the amount of mortgages still outstanding, and part the amount in default of payment of which properties have passed from the mortgagor either by foreclosure or sale.

Difference between mortgages and releases, 1861 to 1877.

131. Sixty-one building societies sent in returns of their operations during 1877. The following are the principal items furnished. It should be observed that some of the returns of the societies were not perfect:—

Building societies.

Building Societies, 1877.

Number of societies - - - -	61
Number of members - - - -	21,824
	£
Amount advanced during the year - -	815,860
Income during the year - - -	1,182,718
Working expenses during the year - -	31,193
Assets at date of balancing - - -	2,878,167
Liabilities - - - - -	2,492,890
Moneys on deposit at date of balancing -	748,253

132. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of 12 months ranged from 5¼ to 8 per cent. These are the extreme figures; the average rates were from 6 to 7 per cent.

Rates of interest in building societies.

133. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of 1876 and 1877 with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:—

Moneys on deposit at end of 1876 and 1877.

Moneys on Deposit at end of Years 1876 *and* 1877.

	1876.	1877.
	£	£
Amount deposited with banks - - -	14,850,148	16,503,528
„ „ savings banks - - -	1,507,235	1,575,305
„ „ building societies - -	611,598	748,253
Total - - - -	16,968,981	18,827,086

134. It will be observed that the moneys on deposit at the end of 1877 exceeded those at the end of 1876 by upwards of two millions sterling.

Increase in deposits.

135. Municipal bodies in Victoria are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, and boroughs, and the second shires. The total area included in the two descriptions of municipalities is as follows:—

Area of municipalities.

Estimated Area embraced in Municipalities.

	Acres.
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	231,546
Shires - - - - -	52,467,653
Total - - -	52,699,199

Population of municipalities.

136. The estimated population of the two kinds of districts was as follows in 1877 :—

Estimated Population of Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	406,833
Shires - - - - -	421,667
Total - - -	828,500

Proportion to population of Victoria.

137. The estimated mean population of Victoria during 1877 was 849,870. It therefore follows that during that year about thirty-nine fortieths of the inhabitants of the Colony enjoyed the advantages of local self government.

Ratepayers in municipalities.

138. The ratepayers in the two kinds of municipal districts numbered as follow in 1877 :—

Ratepayers in Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	89,898
Shires - - - - -	89,873
Total - - -	179,771

Proportion of ratepayers to population.

139. By the above figures, compared with those showing the estimated municipal population, it appears that about one person in every 4·6 persons living in municipalities is a ratepayer.

Dwellings in municipalities.

140. The following is a statement of the number of dwellings in two kinds of municipal districts :—

Dwellings in Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	88,658
Shires - - - - -	90,861
Total - - -	179,519

Increase in number of dwellings.

141. The dwellings in the Colony have not been enumerated since 1871. At that time the number of all descriptions amounted to 158,481. The houses in municipal districts therefore now exceed by 21,038 the whole number returned at the last census.

Value of rateable property.

142. The annual value of rateable property in the two kinds of districts was as follows in 1877 :—

Annual Value of Rateable Property.

	£
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	3,035,751
Shires - - - - -	3,745,305
Total - - -	6,781,056

143. Of the cities, towns, and boroughs, 49 per cent. in 1875, 47 per cent. in 1876, and 41 per cent. in 1877 were rated at 1*s.* in the pound. Of the shires, 87 per cent. in 1875, 91 per cent. in 1876, and 89 per cent. in 1877 were rated at that amount. Municipalities rated at 1*s.* in the pound.

144. In 1875, 10; in 1876, 8; and in 1877, 4 municipal districts were rated at less than 1*s.* in the pound. In 1875, 34; in 1876, 33; and in 1877, 42 municipal districts were rated at over that amount. Municipalities rated under and over 1*s.* in the pound.

145. Letters of naturalization are granted to aliens residing in Victoria upon their taking an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty, but, without becoming naturalized, alien friends resident in the Colony may acquire real and personal property, and may convey, devise, and bequeath it in the same manner as if they had been British subjects by birth. Alien women married to British subjects thereby become naturalized. The following table shows the native countries of those who have obtained letters of naturalization during the year 1877 and the previous 10 years:— Naturalization.

Naturalization, 1867 *to* 1877.

Native Countries.	Ten Years, 1867 to 1876.	Year 1877.
France	27	6
Belgium	3	3
Holland	12	—
Austria	11	4
Prussia	188	43
Other German States	348	
Italy	27	2
Spain	3	1
Portugal	4	—
Russia	9	—
Other European countries	239	42
United States	22	—
South and Central American States	1	—
China	30	3
Other countries	6	—
Total	930	104

146. The number of electors on the rolls of both houses of the Legislature was as follows on the 26th March 1878. Electors on the rolls.

Electors on the Rolls, 1878.

—	Legislative Council.	Legislative Assembly.
Ratepayers	28,098	151,218
Non-ratepayers	1,956	33,188
Total	30,054	184,406

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Imports, exports, and trade, 1877.

147. The total declared value of the imports in 1877 was 16,362,304*l.*, and that of the exports 15,157,687*l.*, the excess of imports over exports was thus 1,204,617*l.*, and the total value of external trade was 31,519,991*l.*

Imports and exports, 1876 and 1877, compared.

148. The value of imports in 1877 exceeded that of 1876 by 656,950*l.* The value of exports in 1877 exceeded the value in 1876 by 961,200*l.*

Imports and exports in 1877 and former years.

149. The imports in 1877 were exceeded in value by those in 1875, 1874, 1873, 1857, and 1854 only; the exports in 1877 were exceeded in value by those in 1874, 1873, 1868, and 1856, but no other years.*

Imports and exports per head.

150. The value of exports per head of the population was less in 1877 than in any other year since that of separation from New South Wales, except 1876 and 1870; the total value of trade per head was less than in any of those years except 1876, 1872, 1871, and 1870; and the value of imports per head was less than in any of those years except 1876, 1872, 1871, 1870, and 1867. The following table shows the values per head in each year, commencing with that in which Victoria became an inde pendent Colony:—

Imports and Exports per Head, 1851 *to* 1877.

Year.	Value per Head of the Population of		
	Imports.	Exports.	Both.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1851 - -	12 3 4	16 7 9	28 11 1
1852 - -	30 12 5	56 1 4	86 13 9
1853 - -	81 1 9	56 12 4	137 14 1
1854 - -	66 0 11	44 0 10	110 1 9
1855 - -	35 9 10	39 17 8	75 7 6
1856 - -	39 5 6	40 13 3	79 18 9
1857 - -	40 2 0	35 0 10	75 2 10
1858 - -	31 4 6	28 18 3	60 2 9
1859 - -	30 4 1	26 16 3	57 0 4
1860 - -	27 19 8	24 0 8	52 0 4
1861 - -	25 0 3	25 11 3	50 11 6
1862 - -	24 11 10	23 15 6	48 7 4
1863 - -	25 3 0	24 3 4	49 6 4
1864 - -	25 8 4	23 11 10	49 0 2
1865 - -	21 10 2	21 6 8	42 16 10
1866 - -	23 5 11	20 6 7	43 12 6
1867 - -	17 19 4	19 11 8	37 11 0
1868 - -	19 16 11	23 4 8	43 1 7
1869 - -	19 19 2	19 6 5	39 5 7
1870 - -	17 10 11	17 11 4	35 2 3
1871 - -	16 14 2	19 14 2	36 8 4
1872 - -	17 19 10	18 4 7	36 4 5
1873 - -	21 3 9	19 12 2	40 15 11
1874 - -	21 4 7	19 6 8	40 11 3
1875 - -	20 9 6	18 2 4	38 11 10
1876 - -	18 18 1	17 1 10	35 19 11
1877 - -	19 5 1	17 16 8	37 1 9

* For value of imports and exports in each year, *see* Statistical Summary of Victoria, *ante*.

Imports and exports, the produce of various countries.

151. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British dominions, and of foreign states, and the value of the exports from Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the same countries and of the Colony, also the per-centage of such values to the total value of imports and exports in 1877, will be found in the following table :—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1877.

Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	—	—	11,269,086	74·35
The United Kingdom -	7,170,888	43·83	1,303,588	8·60
Other British Possessions -	5,635,994	34·44	1,721,022	11·35
Foreign States - -	3,555,422	21·73	863,991	5·70
Total - -	16,362,304	100·00	15,157,687	100·00

Exports of Victorian produce.

152. It will be observed that over 74 per cent. of the exports were set down as the produce or manufacture of Victoria.* This is a higher proportion than obtained in the three previous years or in 1869 or 1870. In the remaining five years of the preceding decenniad Victorian produce bore a higher proportion to the total exports than it did in the year under review, the highest point reached being 78·37 per cent. which occurred in 1867. The following table gives the total value of articles of Victorian produce exported and their proportion to the total exports in each of the 11 years ended with 1877 :—

Exports of Victorian Produce, 1867 *to* 1877.

Year.	Exports of Articles Produced or Manufactured in Victoria.		
	Total Value.	Value per Head of the Population.	Per-centage of Total Exports.
	£	£ s. d.	
1867 - -	9,972,333	15 6 11	78·37
1868 - -	11,697,893	17 8 6¾	75·02
1869 - -	9,539,816	13 13 9	70·85
1870 - -	9,103,323	12 16 5¾	73·00
1871 - -	11,151,622	15 1 10¾	76·60
1872 - -	10,758,658	14 2 9	77·56
1873 - -	11,876,707	15 4 4½	77·61
1874 - -	11,352,515	14 4 3¼	73·52
1875 - -	10,571,806	12 19 5	71·59
1876 - -	10,155,916	12 4 6¼	71·54
1877 - -	11,269,086	13 5 2¼	74·35

* There is reason to fear that the entries in respect to Victorian and outside produce are sometimes loosely made. See my remarks on this subject in the Victorian Year Book, 1875, paragraphs 105 and 106, and Victorian Year Book, 1876–77, paragraphs 383 and 384.

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Exports of Victorian produce per head.

153. The table also contains a statement of the value of Victorian produce exported in each year per head of the population. This was greater in the year under review than it was in 1876, 1875, or 1870, but less than in any other year of the previous decenniad. The highest value per head (17*l.* 8*s.* 6¾*d.*) was in 1868, and the lowest (12*l.* 4*s.* 6¼*d.*) was in 1876. The former was 4*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.* above and the latter was 1*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* below the value of exports of Victorian produce or manufacture in 1877.

Trade with various countries, 1877.

154. In 1877 fully half the imports were from the United Kingdom, and nearly a quarter from New South Wales. The latter consisted chiefly of wool and live stock. Forty-three per cent. of the exports were to the United Kingdom, after which the countries to which the greatest value of goods were sent are those grouped under the head of "other British possessions," which received 28 per cent. of the whole exports, the articles being chiefly gold and specie sent to Ceylon, intended generally, no doubt, for further shipment to the United Kingdom. Next to these countries, the best customer for Victorian exports was New South Wales, which received 14 per cent. of the whole. The value of the imports from and the exports to the different countries, and the per-centage of such values to the total imports and exports, are given in the following table:—

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1877.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
The United Kingdom - -	8,300,411	50·73	6,574,848	43·38
New South Wales - -	3,982,162	24·34	2,183,717	14·41
Queensland - - -	20,599	·13	64,545	·42
South Australia - - -	290,361	1·77	550,415	3·63
Western Australia - -	17,120	·11	59,250	·39
Tasmania - - - -	304,861	1·86	486,952	3·21
New Zealand - - -	599,261	3·66	884,691	5·84
Other British Possessions - -	1,166,915	7·13	4,198,603	27·70
The United States - -	647,090	3·95	123,189	·81
Other Foreign States - -	1,033,524	6·32	31,477	·21
Total - -	16,362,304	100·00	15,157,687	100·00

Imports of principal articles in 1877.

155. The values of 60 of the principal articles imported in 1877 are given in the following table:—

Imports of Principal Articles, 1877.

Articles.	Value of Imports. 1877.
	£
Books - - - - -	170,918
Stationery - - - -	61,461
Musical instruments - - -	101,073

Articles.	Value of Imports. 1877.
	£
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	85,225
Cutlery	43,557
Machinery	100,567
Tools and utensils	41,495
Furniture and upholstery	42,028
Drugs and chemicals	54,191
Matches and vestas	45,544
Opium	79,149
Paints and colours	60,486
Carpeting and druggeting	57,351
Woollens and woollen piece goods	917,793
Silks	258,969
Cottons	766,222
Linen piece goods	37,493
Haberdashery	239,156
Apparel and slops	346,682
Boots and shoes	217,503
Gloves	67,332
Hats, caps, and bonnets	138,222
Hosiery	164,779
Millinery	12,197
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks)	92,735
Butter and cheese	5,793
Fish	158,924
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted	12,700
Flour and biscuit	3,509
Fruit (including currants and raisins)	184,043
Grain, oats	129,876
„ wheat	20,861
„ other (including rice)	261,226
Sugar and molasses	769,032
Beer, cider, and perry	201,189
Coffee	74,804
Hops	65,021
Spirits	579,984
Tea	599,725
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	384,219
Wine	168,985
Candles	48,198
Hides, skins, and pelts	129,045
Leather, leatherware, and leathern cloth	141,933
Wool	2,030,129
Paper (including paper bags)	175,083
Timber	536,761
Oil of all kinds	241,001
Coal	325,367
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware	73,104
Glass and glassware	104,673

Articles.	Value of Imports. 1877.
	£
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	433,961
Jewellery - - - - -	48,702
Specie - - - - -	53,710
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, &c.)	712,041
Nails and screws - - - -	64,574
Live stock - - - - -	1,024,390
Fancy goods - - - -	51,435
Hardware and ironmongery - -	115,635
Oilmen's stores - - - -	18,101
All other articles - - - -	2,212,542
Total - - -	16,362,304

Exports of principal articles in 1877.

156. The exports of 40 of the principal articles are in like manner given for 1877:—

Exports of Principal Articles, 1877.

Articles.	Value of Exports. 1877.
	£
Books - - - - -	38,325
Stationery - - - - -	29,458
Machinery - - - - -	90,262
Woollens and woollen piece goods - -	110,286
Apparel and slops - - - -	216,482
Boots and shoes - - - -	104,207
Butter and cheese - - - -	36,977
Meats, preserved and fresh - - -	123,782
„ salted - - - -	10,035
Flour and biscuit - - - -	141,142
Grain, oats - - - -	34,805
„ wheat - - - -	24,600
„ other (including rice) - -	86,694
Potatoes - - - - -	77,840
Sugar - - - - -	289,211
Coffee - - - - -	25,112
Spirits - - - - -	138,969
Tea - - - - -	282,571
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	235,531
Wine - - - - -	68,192
Bones and bonedust - - -	29,535
Candles - - - - -	31,889
Hides - - - - -	2,997
Horns and hoofs - - - -	2,651
Leather and leatherware - - -	212,066
Skins and pelts - - - -	32,564
Soap - - - - -	7,852

Articles.	Value of Exports. 1877.
	£
Tallow - - - - -	90,455
Wool - - - - -	5,670,871
Bark - - - - -	51,394
Hay and chaff - - - -	38,838
Oil of all kinds - - - -	98,944
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	2,090,112
Specie, gold - - - -	2,814,907
„ silver - - - -	5,500
Antimony, ore, regulus, &c. - -	47,042
Tin, tin ore, and black sand - -	8,538
Live stock - - - - -	317,660
Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized ironware) - - -	45,853
All other articles - - - -	1,393,538
Total - - -	15,157,687

Excess of imports over exports, &c.

157. In 23 out of the 41 years ended with 1877 the value of imports to Victoria exceeded that of exports therefrom, but in the other 18 years the value of exports was the greater. During the whole period the imports exceeded the exports by upwards of 17,000,000*l.*, or an average of nearly 420,000*l.* per annum.

Vessels inwards and outwards.

158. The tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Victorian ports was greater in 1877 than in any former year. The number of vessels was exceeded in four years, viz., 1853, 1854, 1869, and 1873. The following table contains a statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels inwards and outwards during the five years ended with 1877:—

Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1873 *to* 1877.

Year.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.			Total Entered and Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.
1873 -	2,187	756,103	36,307	2,226	762,912	36,216	4,413	1,519,015
1874 -	2,100	777,110	36,834	2,122	792,509	36,472	4,222	1,569,619
1875 -	2,171	840,386	38,681	2,223	833,499	38,454	4,394	1,673,885
1876 -	2,086	810,062	38,960	2,150	847,926	39,600	4,236	1,657,088
1877	2,192	939,661	43,928	2,219	935,324	43,786	4,411	1,874,985

Nationality of vessels.

159. Of the vessels inwards and outwards during 1877, 82 per cent., embracing 60 per cent. of the tonnage, were Colonial; 13 per cent., embracing 32 per cent. of the tonnage, were British; and 5 per cent., embracing 8 per cent. of the tonnage, were foreign. Of the crews entering and leaving Victorian ports in 1877, 67 per cent. were attached to Colonial, 28 per cent. to British, and

5 per cent. to foreign vessels. The following are the figures from which these proportions have been derived :—

Nationality of Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1877.

Nationality.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - -	1,788	555,831	29,443	1,822	563,137	29,757
British - -	292	308,531	12,246	288	299,694	11,878
Foreign - -	112	75,299	2,239	109	72,493	2,151
Total -	2,192	939,661	43,928	2,219	935,324	43,786

Postal returns.

160. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. A satisfactory increase is to be observed in all the items :—

Postal Returns, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.*	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1876 -	886	18,963,503	9,010,147	1,909,391	29,883,041
1877 -	948	20,910,958	9,809,064	2,527,904	33,247,926
Increase -	62	1,947,455	798,917	618,513	3,364,885

Proportion of letters, &c. to population.

161. The letters, newspapers, and packets despatched and received were in the proportion of 3,597 in 1876, and of 3,912 in 1877, to every 100 of the population in those years.

Dead letters.

162. The dead and irregularly posted letters numbered in 1876 132,783, or 1 in every 143 of the total number received, and in 1877 144,876, or 1 in 144. In the former year 1,354 and in the latter year 1,523 contained articles of value. The total value of such articles was in 1876 16,903*l.*, for 16,665*l.* of which, or 98½ per cent., owners were found during the year. In 1877 the value of articles found in letters was 15,263*l.*, for 13,936*l.* of which, or 91 per cent., owners were in like manner found. In 1876 994, or 1 in every 19,078 letters posted, and in 1877 1,301, or 1 in every 16,073, were without addresses or were imperfectly addressed ; 141 in the former and 108 in the latter year bore obscure or libellous addresses. Of these, 90 in the former and 51 in the latter year were post cards.

Money order

163. Money order offices in connexion with the post office had been established in 246 places up to the end of 1877. Besides the issue and payment of money orders at these places, such orders are issued in favour of Victoria, and Victorian orders are

* Including post cards since 1st April 1876.

paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania. The following is a comparative statement of the business in the last two years. An increase will be observed in all the items :—

Money Orders, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Money Orders issued.		Money Orders paid.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
			£		£
1876 -	234	123,025	379,570	125,595	403,525
1877 -	246	131,173	395,829	133,587	423,588
Increase -	12	8,148	16,259	7,992	20,063

Electric telegraphs.

164. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 206 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand. They are also connected with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America. They are likewise united with a submarine cable to Tasmania. The lines were extended during the year by 142 miles, and 455 miles of wire were added to that previously existing. The increase of communication and business during the year is shown in the following table :—

Electric Telegraphs, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of	
		Line (poles).	Wire.
1876 - - -	181	2,743	4,745
1877 - - -	206	2,885	5,200
Increase -	25	142	455

Year.	Number of Telegrams.			Amount Received.
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.	
				£
1876 - - -	682,684	119,262	801,946	52,468
1877 - - -	729,436	190,549	919,985	57,429
Increase -	46,752	71,287	118,039	4,961

Railways : length, gauge, &c.

165. The number of miles of railway open in Victoria at the end of 1877 was 949¾, of which 932¾, viz., 164½ miles of double and 768¼ miles of single line belonged to the State, and 17, viz., 9¾ miles of double and 7¼ miles of single line were the property of the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company.

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An Act has just been passed sanctioning the purchase of this company's lines by the Government. All the lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 feet 3 inches, which is also the national gauge of South Australia, but not of New South Wales, in which Colony a 4 feet 8½ inches gauge has been adopted. The private line of railway, however, between Mosma and Deniliquin in New South Wales, which is connected with the Victorian line from Sandhurst to Echuca, has been constructed upon a 5 feet 3 inches gauge. The following figures show the names, lengths, and cost of construction of the different lines, and the distance travelled on Government and on private lines during 1877 :—

Railways.—Length, Cost, and Distance travelled, 1877.

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December.			Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per Mile.	
GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.						
Northern System.						
Main Line, Melbourne to	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	Miles.
Sandhurst	—	100¾	100¾	4,966,064	49,291	
„ Sandhurst to Echuca -	56¼	—	56¼	593,558	10,552	
Castlemaine and Dunolly line - - -	47½	—	47½	281,021	5,916	1,206,888
Ballarat and Maryborough line - -	42½	—	42½	250,889	5,903	
Maryborough and Avoca line - - -	15	—	15	58,969	3,931	
Sandhurst and Inglewood line - - -	30	—	30	151,552	5,052	
Total Northern System -	191¼	100¾	292	6,302,053	21,582	
Western System.						
Williamstown line -	—	6	6	398,122	66,354	
Geelong line - -	36½	1¾	38¼	1,045,875	27,343	
Ballarat line - -	—	53½	53½	1,714,970	32,056	
Ballarat and Ararat line	57	—	57	306,428	5,376	
Ararat and Stawell line	18¾	—	18¾	109,157	5,822	864,732
Ararat and Hamilton line - - -	66½	—	66½	279,583	4,204	
Geelong and Colac line	50½	—	50½	280,141	5,547	
Portland and Hamilton line - - -	54	—	54	223,509	4,139	
Total Western System -	283¼	61¼	344½	4,357,785	12,650	
North-Eastern System.						
Essendon line (including Racecourse Branch)	2¼	2½	4¾	76,021	16,005	
North-eastern line -	182¼	—	182¼	1,545,666	8,481	685,006
Wangaratta and Beechworth line - -	23	—	23	152,333	6,623	
Total North-eastern line	207½	2½	210	1,774,020	8,448	

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December			Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per Mile.	
Eastern System.						
Gippsland line - -	86¼	—	86¼	552,000	6,400	29,955
Total Government Railways -	768¼	164½	932¾	12,985,858	13,922	2,786,581
Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Company's Railway - -	7¼	9¾	17	867,077	51,005	484,426
Grand Total -	775½	174¼	949¾	13,852,935	14,586	3,271,007

166. At the end of 1877 the following lines were in course of construction. The amount authorised for their construction was 1,147,450*l.*, but the sum expended up to that date had amounted to only 78,365*l.* Their proposed total length is 193 miles, which added to the length of the completed lines, makes a grand total of 1,142¾ miles. Railways in progress.

Railways in Progress, 1877.

Names of Systems and Lines.	Proposed Total Length.	Total Authorised Cost.	Amount expended to 31st December 1877.
Northern System.	Miles.	£	£
Dunolly and St. Arnaud line - -	33	189,750	3,329
Wooden and Daylesford line - -	26	166,400	1,389
Total Northern System - -	59	356,150	4,718
Western System.			
Stawell and Horsham line - -	53½	307,625	4,766
Geelong and Queenscliff line - -	21½	123,625	544
Geelong to Racecourse - -	2	11,500	—
Warrenheip and Gordon's line - -	11	63,250	30
Total Western System - -	88	506,000	5,340
North-eastern System.			
Springs and Wahgunyah line - -	14	80,500	502
Eastern System.			
Gippsland line (Oakleigh to Sale, last section) - - - -	32	204,800	67,805
Grand Total - - -	193	1,147,450	78,365

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Miles open and travelled.

167. The following is a statement of the number of miles open and the number travelled on Government lines and on private ones during 1876 and 1877. As regards the Government lines, it must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year :—

Railways.—Miles open and travelled, 1876 *and* 1877.

Year.	Government Lines.		Private Lines.		Total.	
	Extent open.	Distance travelled.	Extent open.	Distance travelled.	Extent open.	Distance travelled.
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
1876 -	702¼	2,399,748	17	472,323	719¼	2,872,071
1877 -	932¾	2,786,581	17	484,426	949¾	3,271,007
Increase -	230½	386,833	—	12,103	230½	398,936

Passenger and goods traffic.

168. The passengers and goods carried on Government and private railways were as follow in 1877 :—

Passenger and Goods Traffic, 1877.

	Passengers carried.	Goods carried.
	Number.	Tons.
Government lines - - -	3,395,709	1,030,558
Private lines - - -	3,942,217	222,253
Total - - -	7,337,926	1,252,811

Receipts and working expenses.

169. In the same year the receipts and working expenses of the two descriptions of lines were as follow :—

Receipts and Working Expenses, 1877.

	Receipts.	Working Expenses.
	£	£
Government lines - - -	1,135,799	592,481
Private lines - - -	183,839	93,215
Total - - -	1,319,638	685,696

Wages.

170. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in 1877. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those in

the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours :— VICTORIA.

Wages in Melbourne, 1877.

Description of Labour.	1877.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.	
Farm labourers - - - per week, with rations	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - - „ „ -	18*s.* to 25*s.*
Reapers - - - - per acre „ -	10*s.* to 15*s.*
Mowers - - - - „ „ -	4*s.* to 7*s.*
Threshers - - - - per bushel „ -	4*d.* to 9*d.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.	
Shepherds - - - - per annum, with rations	25*l.* to 50*l.*
Stockkeepers - - - „ „ -	35*l.* to 75*l.*
Hutkeepers - - - „ „ -	20*l.* to 40*l.*
Generally useful men on stations - per week „ -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 30*s.*
Shearers - - - - per 100 sheep sheared, with rations.	12*s.* to 15*s.*
ARTIZAN LABOUR.	
Masons - - - - per day, without rations	10*s.*
Plasterers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Carpenters - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - - - „ „ -	10*s.* to 13*s.*
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.	
Married couples, without family - - per annum, with board and lodging	50*l.* to 80*l.*
Married couples, with family - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - „ „ „ -	50*l.*
Grooms - - „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Gardeners - - per week „ „ -	20*s.* to 25*s.*
SERVANTS—FEMALES.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 60*l.*
Laundresses - - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 45*l.*
General servants - „ „ „ -	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Housemaids - - „ „ „ -	25*l.* to 36*l.*
Nursemaids - - „ „ „ -	25*l.* to 35*l*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.	
General labourers - - per day, without rations -	6*s.* to 7*s.*
Stone-breakers - - per cubic yard, without rations	2*s.* to 3*s.*
Seamen - - - per month, with rations -	5*l.* to 6*l.*
Miners - - - per week, without rations -	2*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.*

171. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follow for the same year. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, wine, coal, &c. is naturally higher, and that of agricultural and grazing produce, firewood, &c. naturally lower than in Melbourne :— Prices.

Prices in Melbourne, 1877.

Articles.	1877.	Articles.	1877.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.		Ham - - per lb.	1*s.* 1*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Wheat - - per bushel	5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*	Eggs - - per doz.	10*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Barley - - „	3*s.* to 5*s.* 6*d.*	**GARDEN PRODUCE.**	
Oats - - „	3*s.* to 5*s.*	Potatoes—	
Maize - - „	3*s.* 10*d.* to 6*s.*	Wholesale - per ton	3*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*
Bran - - „	1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.*	Retail - - per lb.	½*d.* to 1*d.*
Hay - - per ton	3*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 10*d.*	Onions, dried - per cwt.	6*s.* to 20*s.*
Flour, first quality „	11*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 16*l.* 5*s.*	Carrots - - { per doz. bunches }	6*d.* to 9*d.*
Bread - - { per 4 lb. loaf }	6½*d.* to 9*d.*	Turnips - - „	4*d.* to 1*s.*
GRAZING PRODUCE.		Radishes - - „	4*d.* to 8*d.*
Horses—		Cabbages - - per doz.	6*d.* to 4*s.*
Draught - each	16*l.* to 49*l.*	Cauliflowers - „	6*d.* to 4*s.*
Saddle and harness - „	6*l.* to 63*l.*	Lettuces - - „	3*d.* to 1*s.*
Cattle—		Green peas - - per lb.	¾*d.* to 3½*d.*
Fat - - „	5*l.* 10*s.* to 19*l.* 10*s.*	**MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.**	
Milch cows - „	4*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.*	Tea (duty paid) - per lb.	8*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Sheep, fat - „	3*s.* to 28*s.*	Coffee (in bond) - „	11*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Lambs, fat - „	2*s.* to 11*s.*	Sugar (duty paid) - per ton	30*l.* to 48*l.*
Butchers' meat—		Rice - - - „	14*l.* to 26*l.*
Beef, retail - per lb.	3*d.* to 9*d.*	Tobacco (in bond) per lb.	7*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Mutton „ - „	1½*d.* to 5*d.*	Soap—	
Veal „ - „	5*d.* to 7*d.*	Colonial - - per ton	20*l.* to 31*l.*
Pork „ - „	8*d.* to 10*d.*	Candles—	
Lamb „ - per qrtr.	2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*	Tallow - - per lb.	4*d.* to 5½*d.*
DAIRY PRODUCE.		Sperm - - „	8*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Butter—		Salt - - - per ton	3*l.* 10*s.* to 8*l.*
Colonial, retail per lb.	9*d.* to 2*s.*	Coals - - „	31*s.* to 38*s.*
Cheese—		Firewood - - „	11*s.* to 18*s.*
Colonial, retail „	8*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*	Ale (duty paid) - per hhd.	5*l.* 10*s.* to 9*l.* 10*s.*
Imported, wholesale - „	1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*	„ „ - per doz.	7*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*
Milk - - per quart	4*d.* to 5*d.*	Porter „ - per hhd.	5*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.* 5*s.*
FARM YARD PRODUCE.		„ „ - per doz.	7*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*
Geese - - per couple	8*s.* to 10*s.*	Brandy (in bond) per gall.	4*s.* 9*d.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*
Ducks - - „	5*s.* to 7*s.*	Rum „ - „	2*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 1½*d.*
Fowls - - „	4*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	Whiskey „ - „	3*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.*
Rabbits - - „	1*s.* to 2*s.*	Hollands „ - „	2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*
Pigeons - - „	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*	Port wine (in bond) - per pipe	16*l.* to 100*l.*
Turkeys - each	5*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*	Port wine (duty paid) - per doz.	24*s.* to 50*s.*
Sucking pigs - „	10*s.* to 16*s.*	Sherry (in bond) - per butt	20*l.* to 135*l.*
Bacon - - per lb.	10*d.* to 1*s.*	„ (duty paid) per doz.	28*s.* to 80*s.*
		Claret - - „	10*s.* 9*d.* to 85*s.*
		Champagne - „	25*s.* to 80*s.*

Price of gold.

172. The price of gold in 1877 ranged from 3*l.* to 4*l.* 6*s.* per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, varies in different districts. In the last quarter of 1877, the lowest price quoted (3*l.* per oz.) was in the Sandhurst district, but some gold in the same district was stated to have realised as much as 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per oz. The highest average was in the Ballarat district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* 16*s.* to 4*l.* 3*s.* and in the Ararat district, where the prices ranged from 3*l.* 13*s.* to 4*l.* 6*s.* The lowest average was in the Sandhurst district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

Weights and measures.

173. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom.

Arrests, 1867, 1872, and 1877.

174. The persons who fell into the hands of the Victorian police in 1877, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads, were as follow :—

Persons arrested, 1867, 1872, *and* 1877.*

—	1867.	1872.	1877.
Taken into custody - - -	23,721	23,705	26,532
Discharged by magistrates - -	8,191	7,473	8,106
Summarily convicted or held to bail -	14,573	15,544	17,832
Committed for trial - - -	957	688	594

Arrests in proportion to population.

175. More arrests, it will be observed, were made at the last period than at any of the others. This, however, does not prove that crime has increased; in fact, in proportion to the number of persons in the Colony, arrests were far more numerous at the first period than they were at the second or last period. The estimated average population in 1867 was 649,826, in 1872 760,991, and in 1877 849,870. The arrests were therefore in the proportion of 1 to every 27 persons living at the first period, and of 1 to every 32 persons living at the second and third periods.

Proportion of times charge was sustained.

176. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial were to the whole number arrested in the proportion of 65 per cent. at the first period, of 68 per cent. at the second period, and of 69 per cent. at the third period.

Diminution of serious offences.

177. The diminution in the number of serious offences is shown by the decreasing number of commitments for trial at each successive period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 25 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 34 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 45 arrests at the third period.

Causes of arrest.

178. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:—

Causes of Arrest, 1867, 1872, *and* 1877.

Offence.	1867.	1872.	1877.
Murder and attempt at murder - - -	22	34	20
Manslaughter - - - - -	27	29	30
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	51	67	53
Assaults - - - - - -	1,243	1,460	1,614
Rape and indecent assaults on females - -	65	75	48
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	14	23	14
Other offences against the person - - -	99	93	95
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c. - -	252	175	157
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c. - -	215	150	195
Other offences against property - - -	3,875	3,650	3,492
Forgery and offences against the currency - -	128	57	120
Drunkenness - - - - - -	9,351	10,566	12,447
Other offences against good order - - -	6,380	5,329	6,272
Offences relating to carrying out laws - -	569	647	442
Smuggling, and other offences against the revenue -	151	62	74
Offences against public welfare - - -	1,279	1,288	1,459
Total - - - - -	23,721	23,705	26,532

* A statement showing, during a series of years, the numbers taken into custody, the numbers committed for trial, and the numbers convicted after commitment, will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria, *ante*.

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Offences least numerous at last period.

179. Arrests for murder and attempt at murder, for rape and indecent assaults against females, for robbery with violence, burglary, and other offences against property, and for offences relating to carrying out laws were less numerous at the last period than at either the second or the first.

Unnatural crimes.

180. Unnatural crimes were most rife at the middle period. Arrests in respect to this offence at the last period were exactly equal in number to those of the first.

Offences least common at middle period.

181. Miscellaneous offences against the person and against good order, cattle stealing, forgery, and offences against the currency, and smuggling and other offences against the revenue were, according to the arrests made, most common at the first and least so at the middle period.

Offences most numerous at last period.

182. Apprehensions for manslaughter, for assaults, for offences against public welfare, and for drunkenness were more numerous at the last period than at either of the other periods.

Drunkenness.

183. Drunkenness, judging from the arrests made, would appear to be increasing. It is not, however, quite certain that the offence increases to the full extent shown by the arrests. It is possible that as the more serious offences diminish and consequently demand less attention from the police, the latter may find leisure to exercise greater vigilance in respect to drunkards, and hence the larger number of apprehensions made.

Proportion of drunkards to population.

184. Making every allowance, however, drunkenness is quite common enough to show that vigorous effort on the part of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil is not uncalled for. In the four years ended with 1877 the apprehensions for this offence have numbered 10,981, 11,541, 11,624, and 12,447. Supposing each of these arrests to represent a distinct individual it would follow that there were taken into custody for drunkenness:

In 1874	one person	in every	73	living in	Victoria
„ 1875	„	„	71	„	„
„ 1876	„	„	72	„	„
„ 1877	„	„	68	„	„

Results of summary disposal.

185. The results of the summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1877 were as follows:—

Summary Disposal by Magistrates, 1877.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 2 years	4	—
„ 1 year and under 2 years	121	36
„ 6 months and under 1 year	266	182
„ 4 months	23	8
„ 3 months	749	396
„ 2 months and under 3 months	174	62
„ 1 month and under 2 months	766	374
„ 15 days and under 1 month	80	13
„ 8 days and under 15 days	487	198
„ 7 days and under	3,872	1,311
Fined	6,307	812

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Ordered to find bail - - - - -	291	74
Sent to industrial school or reformatory - -	429	232
Otherwise dealt with - - - - -	416	149
Total sentenced - - - -	13,985	3,847
Discharged - - - - - -	6,131	1,975
Total summarily disposed of - -	20,116	5,822

186. Corporal punishment may be ordered by magistrates under Statute 35 Vict. No. 399, sec. 33, in cases of "indecent "exposure of person" by males over sixteen years of age. In such cases the offender may be sentenced to be whipped once, twice, or thrice, at the discretion of the bench, and to receive any number of lashes not exceeding 50 on each occasion. Five offenders were so sentenced in 1877, in addition to terms of imprisonment, of these 3 were sentenced to be whipped once, and 2 twice. Of those sentenced to one whipping 1 was to receive 20 and another 50 lashes; the number of lashes to the third was not stated. Of those sentenced to two whippings, 1 was to receive 50 lashes on each occasion; the number of lashes to the other was not stated. One was a lad between 10 and 15 years of age, 2 were between 25 and 30, 1 was between 50 and 60, and the other was upwards of 60 years of age. Whipping ordered by magistrates.

187, The following are the sentences of the prisoners tried and convicted in the year under review:— Sentences in superior courts.

Sentences of Persons Tried and Convicted, 1877.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Death - - - - - - -	1	—
Hard labour on roads or public works for 15 years -	1	—
„ „ 10 years and under 15 years -	3	—
„ „ 7 years and under 10 years -	4	—
„ „ 4 years and under 7 years -	37	—
Imprisonment for 2 years and under 4 years - -	93	4
„ 1 year and under 2 years - -	68	4
„ 6 months and under 1 year -	59	5
„ 1 month and under 6 months -	29	4
„ under one month - -	10	—
Fined - - - - - - -	9	—
Awaiting the pleasure of the Crown - - -	7	2
Total tried and convicted - -	321	19

188. In addition to the terms of imprisonment named in the foregoing table, several of the persons sentenced were ordered to be kept in solitary confinement for certain periods, and 6 were ordered to be whipped. Rape or indecent assaults on females were the crimes of 4 of these, for one of whom 3 whippings of 20 lashes each; for one, 3 whippings of 15 lashes each; for one, Whipping ordered by superior courts.

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1 whipping of 25 lashes; and for one, 1 whipping of 20 lashes were prescribed. Unnatural offence was the crime of another, the number of whippings to be administered being 3 of 24 lashes each. Robbery under arms was the crime of the remaining offender, a boy only 14 years of age, who, in addition to a week's solitary confinement, and 3 years in the reformatory, was sentenced to three whippings with a birch rod, the number of stripes to be inflicted at each castigation not being mentioned. Judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of General Sessions can sentence males over 16 years of age to receive corporal punishment, under Act 27 Vict. No. 233, for unnatural offences, attempts to choke in order to commit an offence, and for robbery under arms, and, under Act 35 Vict. No. 399, for attempts to commit rape or rape itself where sentence of death is commuted. The greatest number of whippings an individual can be sentenced to receive for one offence is 3, and the greatest number of lashes at each whipping is 50.

Executions.

189. One criminal, an Englishman, claiming to be a member of the Church of England, was executed in 1877 for murder. Executions have taken place in Victoria in each year since its separation from New South Wales, except 1874. In the 13 years ended with 1877 the total number of executions was 42. Those executed were all males, and no native of Victoria is included in the list.

Gaols and prisoners.

190. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1877, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table:—

Gaols and Penal Establishments, 1877.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.						Prisoners transferred from one Institution to another during the Year.		
		Total Number.			Average at One Time.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols - - -	9	6,254	2,878	9,132	606	318	924	1,645	472	2,117
Police gaols - -	17	843	123	966	27	4	31	151	38	189
Penal establishments -	3	1,195	—	1,195	606	—	606	182	—	182
Total - -	29	8,292	3,001	11,293	1,239	322	1,561	1,978	510	2,488

Proportion of prisoners to population.

191. Estimating the mean population of the Colony during 1877 as 849,870, consisting of 461,542 males and 388,328 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 544 persons living was constantly in prison during the year, or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during the same period, 1 male to every 373 living, and 1 female to every 1,206 females living were constantly in detention.

192. The birth-places and religions of the prisoners constantly detained during the year, deduced from the total numbers of each nationality and religion returned as passing through the institutions, also the totals of the same nationality and religion in the estimated mean population of the year are compared in the following table :— Birthplaces and religions of prisoners.

Birth-places and Religions of Prisoners, 1877.

Native Country and Religion.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Native Country.			
Australian Colonies -	418,037	427	10·21
England and Wales -	199,042	473	23·76
Scotland - - -	65,513	124	18·93
Ireland - - -	117,258	413	35·22
China - - -	20,633	37	17·93
Other countries - -	29,387	87	—
Total -	849,870	1,561	18·37
Religion.			
Protestants - -	614,341	898	14·62
Roman Catholics -	202,644	608	30·00
Jews - - -	4,237	9	21·24
Pagans - - -	20,807	38	18·26
Others - - -	7,841	8	—

193. It will be observed that in view of their respective numbers in the population, natives of the Australian Colonies contributed much less, and natives of China slightly less than their share to the number of inmates of prisons, but that natives of Scotland contributed slightly more, natives of England and Wales 30 per cent. more, and natives of Ireland 90 per cent. more than their share to that number. Also that of the religious denominations shown Protestants contributed less than their share, Pagans about their share, Jews more, and Roman Catholics over 60 per cent. more than their share to the number of such inmates. Relative numbers of each country and sect.

194. The numbers of registered clergy, of buildings used for public worship, of persons such buildings could accommodate, of those usually attending divine service, and of the services performed in connexion with each religious denomination, were as follow during the year 1877 :— Churches and clergy.

Churches and Clergy, 1877.

Religious Denomination.	Number of Registered Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.			Number of Services during the Year.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	Persons usually attending.	
Church of England -	146	463	67,902	42,814	25,193
Roman Catholics -	85	491	103,093	65,314	41,321
Presbyterians - -	153	603	74,100	63,545	32,199
Wesleyans - -	144	797	132,895	95,207	85,717
Independents - -	47	99	16,516	8,505	9,838
Baptists - -	45	61	12,960	9,230	9,503
Bible Christians -	17	93	9,000	4,200	6,200
Evangelical Lutherans	13	41	4,615	3,083	2,776
Welsh Calvinists -	2	7	1,250	420	870
Church of Christ -	11	39	7,350	3,600	4,450
Other Christians -	14	13	2,030	844	3,627
Jews - - -	7	6	1,889	519	1,382
Other sects - -	—	2	1,600	1,400	26
Total - -	684	2,715	435,200	298,681	223,102

Increase in churches, clergy, &c.

195. All the totals in the above table show increase as compared with similiar totals for 1876. The clergy increased by 20, the church buildings by 113, the sittings by 16,372, the persons usually attending by 5,369, and the services performed by 7,903.

Sabbath schools.

196. The number of Sabbath schools attached to each religious sect, the number of teachers, and the number of scholars were returned as follow for 1877:—

Sabbath Schools, 1877.

Religious Denomination.	Number of Sabbath Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Scholars.
Church of England - -	286	2,323	21,558
Roman Catholics - -	243	1,566	19,124
Presbyterians - - -	316	2,363	26,505
Wesleyans - - -	487	4,778	31,262
Independents - - -	63	803	5,978
Baptists - - -	60	403	4,162
Bible Christians - -	50	562	3,183
Evangelical Lutherans - -	13	44	562
Welsh Calvinists - -	7	79	788
Church of Christ - -	19	157	1,315
Other Christians - -	7	33	311
Jews - - - -	5	14	311
Other sects - - -	2	21	95
Total - -	1,558	13,146	115,154

Increase of sabbath schools, teachers, and scholars.

197. As compared with the numbers in 1876, the Sabbath schools had increased by 106, the teachers by 1,087, and the scholars by 4,361

Melbourne University.

198. The Melbourne University was established under a special Act of the Victorian Legislature (16 Vict. No. 434), which was

assented to on the 22nd January 1853. This Act provides for the endowment of the University by the payment of 9,000*l.* annually out of the general revenue, also that no religious test shall be administered to anyone to entitle him to be admitted to the rights and privileges of the institution; also for the appointment of a council consisting of 20 members, of whom 16 at least must be laymen, and for the election by them out of their own body of a chancellor and a vice-chancellor; also for the constitution of a senate, to be presided over by a warden, as soon as the superior degrees of master of arts, doctor of medicine, doctor of laws, or doctor of music should number not less than 100. This number was reached in 1867, and the senate was constituted on the 14th of June of that year.

University ranks with British universities.

199. Royal letters patent under the sign manual of Her Majesty Queen Victoria were issued on the 14th March 1859, declaring that all degrees granted or thereafter to be granted by the Melbourne University should be recognised as academic distinctions and rewards of merit, and should be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration in the United Kingdom, and in British Colonies and possessions throughout the world, just as fully as if they had been granted by any University in the United Kingdom.

Date of founding University.

200. The foundation stone of the University was laid on the 3rd July 1854, and the building was opened on the 3rd October of the following year.

Matriculated students.

201. The number of students who matriculated in 1877 was 103, as against 73 in the previous year. The matriculations in 1877 were more numerous than in any year since the University was opened except 1874 when they numbered 118. From the opening of the University to the end of 1877 the total number of students who matriculated was 1,099.

Attendance at lectures.

202. In 1877 as compared with 1876 an increase of 35, and as compared with 1875 an increase of 14, took place in the number of students attending lectures.

Graduates.

203. In 1877 the number of graduates was 31, of whom 26 took direct and 5 *ad eundem* degrees. The direct graduates numbered 28 in 1876 and 29 in 1875. The *ad eundem* graduates numbered 10 in 1876 and 5 in 1875. The following table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1876, also those in the year 1877 :—

Melbourne University Graduates, 1855 *to* 1877.

Degrees.	Prior to 1877.			During 1877.			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts -	113	51	164	11	—	11	124	51	175
Master of Arts -	67	69	136	4	4	8	71	73	144
Bachelor of Medicine	35	6	41	6	—	6	41	6	47
Doctor of Medicine -	11	59	70	—	—	—	11	59	70
Bachelor of Laws -	40	5	45	5	—	5	45	5	50
Doctor of Laws -	1	11	12	—	1	1	1	12	13
Total - -	267	201	468	26	5	31	293	206	499

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Public schools.

204. The present Education Act (36 Vict. No. 447) came into operation on the 1st January 1873. The following is a statement of the number of schools aided or supported by the State, and of the instructors and scholars in such schools at the end of the year prior to and of each of the years which have elapsed since that period:—

Public Schools, 1872 *to* 1877.

—	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			On the Rolls.	In average Attendance.	Distinct Children (estimated).
1872	1,048	2,416	135,962	68,436	118,498
1873	1,078	3,149	207,826	98,746	181,131
1874	1,111	3,715	216,144	104,375	188,380
1875	1,320	3,826	220,533	101,495	195,252
1876	1,498	3,772	231,560	106,758	194,018
1877	1,626	3,860	234,519	116,015	194,994

Increase in public schools, 1872–1877.

205. By comparing the figures on the lowest line with those on the uppermost, it will be ascertained that since the present Education Act has been in force the following increases have taken place in and in connexion with the schools aided or supported by the State:—

Public Schools.—Increase between 1872 *and* 1877.

Schools - - - - -	578
Instructors - - - - -	1,444
Scholars on the rolls - - - -	98,557
„ in average attendance - -	47,579
Distinct children attending (estimated) -	76,496

Private schools.

206. A statement of the number of private schools, and of the instructors employed therein, and of the scholars attending during the five years ended with 1877, will be found in the following table:

Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1877.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.
1872 - - -	888	1,841	24,781
1873 - - -	653	1,446	18,428
1874 - - -	610	1,509	22,448
1875 - - -	565	1,511	27,481
1876 - - -	645	1,646	28,847
1877 - - -	530	1,457	28,422

Private schools, increase or decrease.

207. The first of the years shown in the table is the one immediately prior to that in which the Education Act came into operation. It will be observed that in 1877 the private schools

and instructors connected with them were fewer than the number in that year, but the scholars attending private schools exceeded by upwards of 3,600 the number in that year. The following figures show the decrease of the two former and the increase of the latter :—

Private Schools, &c.—Increase or Decrease between 1872 *and* 1877.

Increase.		Decrease.	
Scholars	- 3,641	Schools	- 358
		Instructors	- 384

208. Under the State school system many more pupils are allotted to each instructor than is generally found to be the case in private schools. During 1877, in public schools the proportion of scholars to each instructor, male and female, was 30 if the average number in attendance be taken, 51 if the estimated number of distinct children be taken, and as many as 61 if the total number on the roll be taken. During the same year, in private schools the average number of scholars to each instructor was only 19½. Proportion of scholars to each teacher.

209. If, for the six years of which mention has already been made the totals shown in the public schools be added to those in the table relating to private schools, the growth of the school system since the year prior to that in which the Education Act came into operation will be readily observed. Public and private schools.

Public and Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1877.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars on the Rolls.
1872 - - -	1,936	4,257	160,743
1873 - - -	1,731	4,595	226,254
1874 - - -	1,721	5,224	238,592
1875 - - -	1,885	5,337	248,014
1876 - - -	2,143	5,418	260,407
1877 - - -	2,156	5,317	262,941

210. By comparing the first and last lines of the tables, it appears that in 1877 there were 220 more schools, with 1,060 more teachers, and 102,198 more children on the rolls, than there were in the year prior to that in which the present State school system was introduced. Increase of schools, &c.

211. Boys in public schools are slightly more numerous than girls, but in private schools the reverse is the case. The proportions in 1877 were 93 girls to 100 boys in public and private schools combined, or 90 girls to 100 boys in public schools, and 116 girls to 100 boys in private schools. Proportion of the sexes in schools.

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Ages of scholars.

212. The age prescribed by law as that at which children shall attend school, unless there be some reasonable excuse for their not doing so, is from 6 to 14 years last birthday, both inclusive. The following are the numbers at above and below those ages in both descriptions of schools:—

Ages of Scholars, 1877.

Ages.	Public Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.
Under 6 years - -	25,782	4,458	30,240
6 years to 15 years -	151,265	21,128	172,393
15 „ and upwards -	17,947	2,836	20,783
Total - -	194,994	28,422	223,416

Proportion of scholars at school age.

213. In public schools 78 per cent. and in private schools 74 per cent. of the scholars are at the school age. In the former 9 per cent., and in the latter 10 per cent. are above that age; in the former 13 per cent., and in the latter 16 per cent. are below that age.

Accommodation of charitable institutions.

214. The following is a list of the principal charitable institutions in Victoria, and a statement of the accommodation which according to the returns of 1877, was available for indoor patients:—

Charitable Institutions.—Amount of Accommodation.

Name of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Wards or Rooms.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Inmate.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General hospitals - -	32	229	2,283,734	2,062	1,110
Lying-in Hospital - -	1	20	70,200	64	1,128
Blind Asylum - -	1	9	112,788	109	1,035
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	1	4	70,312	72	977
Eye and Ear Hospital -	1	3	10,694	22	486
Children's Hospital - -	1	6	38,409	48	800
Benevolent asylums - -	5	117	817,088	1,184	690
Immigrants' Home - -	1	42	383,882	430	893
Orphan asylums - -	7	70	710,590	1,165	610
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	9	46	818,198	1,319	620
Hospitals for the insane -	5	79	3,019,612	2,732	1,105
Female refuges - -	5	67	194,150	240	809
Total - -	69	692	8,529,657	9,447	903

Inmates and deaths in charities.

215. The following table shows the total and average number of inmates in the same institutions during the year; also the number of deaths, and the proportion of deaths to inmates. It

will be noticed that no deaths occurred in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, or the Eye and Ear Hospital:—

Charitable Institutions.—Inmates and Deaths, 1877.

Name of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Average at one Time.		
				per cent.
General hospitals -	14,858	1,557·2	1,550	10·43
Lying-in Hospital, &c. -	866	46·3	22	2·54
Blind Asylum - -	109	102·0	1	·92
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	87	73·0	—	—
Eye and Ear Hospital -	181	46·0	—	—
Children's Hospital - -	273	29·5	17	6·23
Benevolent asylums - -	1,616	1,136·2	157	9·72
Immigrants' Home - -	2,584	545·0	70	2·71
Orphan asylums - -	1,205	986·1	6	·50
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	2,127	1,207·0	25	1·18
Hospitals for the insane -	3,260	2,666·0	197	6·04
Female refuges - -	514	212·5	2	·39
Total - -	27,680	8,606·8	2,047	7·40

Receipts and expenditure.

216. A statement of the receipts and expenditure of the same charities is given in the following table:—

Charitable Institutions.—Receipts and Expenditure, 1877.

Name of Institution.	Receipts.				Expenditure.
	From Government.	From Private Contributions.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
General hospitals - -	61,930	29,569	9,936	101,435	103,113
Lying-in Hospital, &c. -	1,228	1,535	798	3,561	3,369
Blind Asylum - -	1,350	1,122	1,375	3,847	4,878
Deaf and Dumb Asylum -	1,650	1,209	737	3,596	3,823
Eye and Ear Hospital -	500	631	388	1,519	1,596
Children's Hospital - -	1,000	1,528	—	2,528	2,394
Benevolent asylums -	20,395	6,280	3,554	30,229	32,459
Immigrants' Home - -	5,675	889	1,211	7,775	8,429
Orphan asylums - -	12,775	4,881	788	18,444	19,721
Industrial and reformatory schools - - -	24,569	—	3,987	28,556	26,026
Hospitals for the insane -	93,959	—	4,418	98,377	98,377
Female refuges - -	1,570	—	12,286	13,856	13,651
Total - -	226,601	47,644	39,478	313,723	317,836

Government aid to charities.

217. About 72 per cent. of the receipts of charitable institutions was derived from government grants. The expenditure exceeded the total receipts by 4,000*l.* The institutions which spent more

than they received were the General Hospitals, the Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylums, the Eye and Ear Hospital, the Benevolent Asylums, the Immigrants Home, and the Orphan Asylums.

Children in industrial schools.

218. The children received into the industrial schools in 1877 added to those in the institutions when the year commenced numbered 1,772, viz., 1,004 boys and 768 girls. They were placed in the schools in the first instance for the following reasons:—

—	Boys.	Girls.
Found begging or receiving alms, or arrested as neglected children	733	566
Living in a brothel or with bad characters	58	50
Having committed a punishable offence	50	5
Unable to be controlled by parents	31	15
Absconded in a former year and re-taken in 1877	16	1
On other grounds	116	131
Total	1,004	768

Discharges from industrial schools.

219. The children who left the industrial schools during the year numbered 802, viz., 461 boys and 341 girls. These were discharged under the following circumstances:—

—	Boys.	Girls.
At expiration of sentence, or on attaining the age of 16 years	66	28
Placed in service or apprenticed	134	131
Absconded and not re-taken	32	1
Died	12	13
Placed out under boarding out regulations	118	85
Placed out to wet-nurse	18	20
On other grounds	81	63
Total	461	341

Absconders from industrial schools.

220. Besides the 32 boys and one girl mentioned above as having absconded from the industrial schools and not having been re-taken during the year, 176 children—viz., 168 boys and 8 girls—absconded and were recovered. At the end of the year 543 boys and 427 girls remained in the institutions.

Inebriate Retreat.

221. Thirty-one patients—viz., 24 males and 7 females—were received into the Inebriate Retreat in 1877, as against 15 males and 11 females in 1876. Of those admitted in 1877, 26 entered voluntarily and 5 compulsorily, 24 had been constant and 6 periodical drinkers; 28 had had delirium tremens, 3 were descended from intemperate parents, and 22 had been accustomed to use tobacco. No death occurred in the retreat, but 28 patients were discharged during the year. At the close of the year, 8 inmates remained in the institution.

Receipts and expenditure.

222. The receipts of the inebriate retreat amounted in 1877 to 1,070*l.*, of which 42*l.* was from subscriptions or donations, 1,001*l*

from patients, and 27*l.* from other sources. The expenditure during the year amounted to 1,575*l.*, or 505*l.* more than the revenue.

223. The Melbourne Home and Governesses' Institute contains 20 rooms, having 22,694 feet of cubic space, and makes up 31 beds. The total number of inmates was in 1877 173, of whom 125 were needlewomen and 48 governesses, and the average number of inmates was 19½. The receipts during the year, all from private sources, amounted to 858*l.*, and the expenditure to 791*l.* Classes for teaching cookery were held at this institution during the year. Melbourne Home.

224. Four free dispensaries furnished returns for 1877. Two of these were homœopatic institutions, one being in connexion with a homœopathic hospital. The persons treated during the year numbered 4,559, viz., 1,739 males and 2,820 females. The total receipts amounted to 2,177*l.*, of which 760*l.* was from Government and 1,417*l.* from private sources. The total expenditure was 2,081*l.* Free dispensaries.

225. Thirty-four benevolent or philanthropic societies furnished returns for 1877. The associations are for the relief of distressed or indigent persons, and are generally managed by ladies. The names of three of the societies indicate their connexion with the Jewish body, but no distinctive denomination is perceptible in the titles of the others. One of the societies is devoted to the assistance of discharged prisoners. The acts of relief during the year numbered 9,589; the receipts amounted to 13,309*l.*, of which 5,230*l.* was from Government and 8,079*l.* from private sources, and the expenditure to 13,431*l.* Benevolent societies.

226. The extent of land sold in Victoria up to the end of 1877 was 11,147,329 acres, and the extent granted without purchase was 4,051 acres. The whole area alienated in fee-simple was thus 11,151,380 acres. Crown lands alienated, 1836 to 1877.

227. The selected lands, of which the purchase had not been completed up to the end of the year, amounted to 8,092,045 acres. Of this extent it is estimated that 1,037,000 acres had been forfeited or abandoned and had reverted to the Crown. The remainder, representing the whole area in process of alienation under deferred payments, amounted to 7,055,045 acres. Crown lands selected.

228. According to the latest estimate, the total area of the Colony is 56,446,720 acres, and if from this be deducted the sum of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting to 18,206,425 acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1876 to 38,240,295 acres. Crown lands unalienated.

229. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for selection, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, the State forests, auriferous, pastoral, and timber reserves, and land which is at present useless, owing to its mountainous character or to its being covered with mallee scrub, lakes, or lagoons. Deducting these lands from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 38,240,295 Public estate, 1877.

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acres, it will be found that the area open for selection is narrowed to 12,002,327 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the condition of the public estate at the end of 1877 :—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31st December 1877.

Condition of Land.	Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee simple - - - - - -	11,151,380
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments - -	7,055,045
Roads in connexion with the above - - - - -	962,176
Unsold land included in town reserves - - - -	242,922
Reserves in connexion with pastoral occupation (about) - -	350,000
Auriferous lands (about) - - - - - -	1,047,000
State forests not included in unavailable mountain ranges - -	243,000
Timber reserves - - - - - - - -	392,870
Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c. (about)	23,000,000
Area available for selection at end of 1877 - - - -	12,002,327
Total area of Victoria - - -	56,446,720

Crown lands available for selection.

230. Omitting the 23,000,000 acres covered by mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., the remainder of the Colony, amounting to 33,446,720 acres, or about 59 per cent. of the total area, may be said to be suitable for occupation. Of this extent, at the end of 1877, 18,206,425 acres, or 54 per cent., were already alienated or in process of alienation; 3,237,968 acres, or 10 per cent., were occupied by reserves; and 12,002,327 acres, or 36 per cent., were available for selection.

Extent available for selection, 1876 and 1877.

231. The difference between the extent available for selection at the end of 1876 and at the end of 1877 was 992,493 acres. The extent so available was equal at the former period to 23 per cent., and at the latter period to 21 per cent., of the whole area of the Colony.

Crown lands alienated, 1877.

232. The land alienated from the Crown in fee-simple during 1877 amounted to 323,341 acres. Of this extent, 323,082 acres were sold, and 259 acres were granted without purchase.

Crown lands sold by auction.

233. Of the area sold, 76,006 acres, or less than a fourth, was disposed of by auction. Nearly the whole of the remainder was in the first instance selected under the system of deferred payments.

Amount realised on Crown land sales, 1877.

234. The amount realised for Crown lands sold in 1877 was 375,494*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* per acre. Of this sum, only 218,075*l.* was received during the year, the remainder having been paid in former years as rents and license fees. The proportion sold by auction realised 127,974*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* per acre, and the proportion sold otherwise than at auction realised 247,520*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* 0½*d.* per acre.

Amount realised, 1836 to 1877.

235. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1877 the amount realised by the sale of Crown lands was 18,376,606*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* per acre.

Squatting runs, number and area.

236. The squatting runs in 1877 numbered 801, or 21 less than in 1876. The area of Crown lands embraced in runs amounted in 1877 to 20,854,615 acres, or 1,051,925 acres less than in 1876.

Squatting runs average size.

237. The average size of squatting runs was 26,650 acres in 1876, and 26,036 acres in 1877. This is exclusive of any purchased land attached thereto.

Rent of runs.

238. The rent of runs is assessed in accordance with the quantity of stock the land is estimated to be able to depasture, viz., 5*s.* yearly for each head of cattle or horses, or 1*s.* yearly for each sheep. In 1876 the amount of rent received was 138,475*l.*, or 1·594*d.* (a fraction over 1½*d.*) per acre.

Agricultural statistics.

239. The agricultural statistics of Victoria are collected by the municipal bodies, who are required each year to furnish the Government statist, on or before the 31st March, at their own cost, such agricultural and other statistics relating to their districts on such forms and in such a manner as the Governor in Council may direct. All persons are required to give correct information to the best of their knowledge and belief, and should they fail to do so they render themselves liable to a penalty not exceeding 10*l.* Collectors divulging or making extracts from the information they receive, except under the special direction or authority of the Government statist, also render themselves liable to a penalty of 10*l.*

Agricultural statistics, 1877–8.

240. The agricultural statistics to which reference will now be made are those for the year ended 31st March 1878.

Holdings to be visited by collectors.

241. The holdings which the collectors are required to visit are all blocks of alienated land above one acre in extent which are occupied for agricultural or pastoral purposes. Each distinct occupation is considered to be a holding, without reference to its proprietorship, and each of several holdings in different localities owned by one person is necessarily reckoned as a distinct holding.

Land in occupation.

242. The extent of land in occupation, of which a return is made, is always less than the whole area alienated. The collectors are not required to take account of holdings of a smaller extent than one acre, nor of gardens or grounds attached to residences which are kept merely for ornament and pleasure, nor of any lands which are unoccupied, or which are used for other purposes than agriculture or the keeping of stock. It is, moreover, possible that in a few instances the collectors may not be aware of the existence of, and consequently may not penetrate to some isolated blocks of purchased land held in connexion with squatting stations at a distance from agricultural districts.

Land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated.

243. A statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated in the year under review, and the previous one, will be found in the following table. All the items show increase :—

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Holdings and Land Occupied, Enclosed, and Cultivated,* 1877 *and* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Number of Holdings larger than One Acre.	Acres occupied.	Acres enclosed.	Acres under Tillage.
1877 - -	43,057	13,855,003	12,702,051	1,231,105
1878 - -	45,448	14,806,926	13,888,383	1,420,502
Increase -	2,391	951,923	1,186,332	189,397

Land under principal crops.

244. The following table shows the extent of land in Victoria placed under the principal crops in 1877 and 1878. An increase will be observed in the land under wheat, hay, and green forage, but a falling off in that under oats, barley, and potatoes :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1877 - -	401,417	115,209	25,034	40,450	147,408	362,554
1878 - -	564,564	105,234	19,116	37,107	176,951	390,330
Increase -	163,147	—	—	—	29,543	27,776
Decrease -	—	9,975	5,918	3,343	—	—

Produce of principal crops.

245. The gross produce of the same crops, except green forage, is shown as follows for 1877 and 1878. It will be observed that the yield of wheat and hay was greater in the latter year than in the former, but the reverse was the case as regards oats, barley, and potatoes :—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1877 - - -	5,279,730	2,294,225	530,323	134,082	180,560
1878 - - -	7,018,257	2,040,486	378,706	115,419	207,251
Increase -	1,738,527	—	—	—	26,691
Decrease -	—	253,739	151,617	18,663	—

Yield of principal crops, 1868 to 1877-8.

246. The average produce of wheat per acre in 1877–8 was 12·41 bushels, that of oats was 19·39 bushels, that of barley was 19·81 bushels, that of potatoes was 3·11 tons, that of hay was 1·17 tons. The average of wheat was exceeded in every year of the previous decenniad except 1871, that of oats in all the years

* The holdings and land referred to are exclusive of Crown lands held under squatting licenses.

except 1868, 1871, 1872, 1874, and 1875; that of barley in all the years except 1869 and 1871; that of potatoes in all the years except 1869, 1870, and 1874; and that of hay in all the years except 1869 and 1871. The following table shows the acreable yield of these crops during each of the last 11 years, also the average during the whole period :—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1868 *to* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Average Produce per Acre of				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1868 - -	15·72	18·61	20·32	3·29	1·30
1869 - -	16·28	19·65	15·23	2·21	1·09
1870 - -	19·75	25·98	24·55	3·09	1·60
1871 - -	10·10	14·98	12·26	3·27	1·13
1872 - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·17
Average of 11 years	14·39	19·39	20·12	3·16	1·28

Proportion of land under each crop.

247. Of every 1,000 acres cultivated during the past season 397 acres were placed under wheat, 74 acres under oats, 13½ acres under barley, 26 acres under potatoes, 125 acres under hay, 275 acres under green forage, and 89½ acres under other kinds of crops. The tendency of late years has been to crop a larger extent of land, relatively to the whole area under tillage, with wheat, hay, and green forage, and a smaller extent with the remaining crops. The following table shows the proportion that the land under different crops has borne to the total area under tillage during each of the last five years :—

Proportion of Land under each Crop to Total under Cultivation, 1874 to 1878.

Land under—	Proportion to total Land under Tillage.				
	1873–4.	1874–5.	1875–6.	1876–7.	1877–8.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Wheat - -	36·27	32·90	28·52	32·61	39·74
Oats - - -	11·50	11·36	11·01	9·36	7·41
Barley - -	2·63	2·92	2·80	2·03	1·35
Potatoes - -	3·97	3·48	3·27	3·29	2·61
Hay - - -	11·99	11·76	13·78	11·97	12·46
Green forage - -	22·08	25·14	27·37	29·45	27·48
Other tillage - -	11·56	12·44	13·25	11·29	8·95
Total - -	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

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Minor crops.

248. In addition to the principal crops of which mention has been made, various descriptions of minor crops are also raised. It is not, however, presumed that the whole of such crops, or the full measure to which they are grown, is recorded by the collectors. It is certain that they are often raised in gardens, in which case the different kinds would not be distinguished in the returns. It is also probable that they may be sometimes grown upon allotments of a smaller extent than one acre, which the collectors are not called upon to visit. The following list must therefore be looked upon as indicating the nature of certain minor crops grown in Victoria rather than the extent to which these crops have been cultivated during the last year :—

Minor Crops,* 1877–8.

Nature of Crops.	1877–8.	Nature of Crops.	1877–8.
Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage, acres	470	Maize, bushels	22,050
Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage, tons	2,272	Mangel-wurzel, acres	1,320
Broom millet, acres	7	„ tons	15,465
Buckwheat, acres	2	Melons, acres	13
„ bushels	11	„ tons	9
Canary, acres	82	Mulberry trees, acres	21
„ bushels	825	„ number	14,310
Chicory, acres	256	Mustard, acres	58
„ tons	1,333	„ cwt.	167
Flax, acres	33	Olives, acres	10
„ fibre, cwt.	40	Onions, acres	816
„ linseed, bushels	125	„ tons	3,055
Garden seeds, mixed, acres	16	Opium poppies, acres	3
Grass seeds, cocksfoot, acres	3	Peas and beans, acres	17,286
„ „ bushels	75	„ „ bushels	241,007
„ mixed, acres	10	Pumpkins, acres	33
„ „ bushels	174	„ tons	150
„ prarie, acres	35	Raspberries, acres	17
„ „ bushels	1,220	„ cwt.	224
„ rib, acres	21	Rhubarb, acres	3
„ „ bushels	120	„ tons	10
„ rye, acres	1,758	Rye and bere, acres	1,075
„ „ bushels	27,043	„ „ bushels	9,852
„ Yorkshire fog, acres	19	Strawberries, acres	19
„ Yorkshire fog, bushels	208	„ cwt.	208
Hops, acres	274	Tobacco, acres	2,327
„ lbs.	218,848	„ cwt.	15,827
Maize, acres	1,215	Turnips, acres	315
		„ tons	2,346
		Vines, acres	4,419
		„ wine, galls.	457,533
		„ brandy, galls.	840

Value of agricultural produce.

249. Subjoined is an estimate of the value of the crops raised during the year ended 31st March 1877. It will be seen that the total amount exceeded five and three quarter millions sterling :—

* Exclusive of those grown in gardens.

Value of Agricultural Produce, 1877–8.

Name of Crop.	Gross Produce and Price.	Estimated Value.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat - - -	7,018,257 bushels at	0 5 1	1,783,756 19 9
Oats - - - -	2,040,486 „ at	0 4 6	459,109 7 0
Barley - - -	378,706 „ at	0 4 4	82,052 19 4
Other cereals - - -	272,909 „ at	0 4 8	63,678 15 4
Potatoes - - -	115,419 tons at	5 15 0	663,659 5 0
Other green crops - -	23,138 „ at	5 0 0	115,690 0 0
Hay - - - -	207,251 „ at	4 6 9	898,951 4 3
Green forage - - -	390,330 acres at	3 0 0	1,170,990 0 0
Tobacco - - -	15,827 cwt. at	2 16 0	44,315 12 0
Grapes, not made into wine -	13,807 „ at	1 0 0	13,807 0 0
Wine - - - -	457,535 gallons at	0 4 0	91,507 0 0
Brandy - - -	840 „ at	0 10 0	420 0 0
Other crops - - -	2,712 acres at	5 0 0	13,560 0 0
Garden and orchard produce -	19,570 „ at	20 0 0	391,400 0 0
	Total - -		5,792,898 2 8

Hands employed.

250. As compared with the numbers returned in 1877, a falling off took place in the hands employed on stations; but this was much more than counterbalanced by the increase of the hands on farms. The following are the returns of the two years. The proprietors or managers of farms and stations are included :—

Hands employed on Farms and Stations, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Hands employed on Farms.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1877 - - -	63,394	28,747	92,141
1878 - - -	68,178	29,198	97,376
Increase - -	4,784	451	5,235

Year ended 31st March.	Hands employed on Stations.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1877 - - -	4,276	1,332	5,608
1878 - - -	4,222	1,266	5,488
Decrease - - -	54	66	120
Net increase on farms and stations - -	4,730	385	5,115

Live stock.

251. The live stock on farms and land not attached to squatting stations, and the live stock on squatting stations, were returned as follow for the last two years. An increase both on farms and stations will be observed in the number of horses, cattle, and pigs,

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but a falling off in the number of sheep. A reduction, however, took place in the number of cattle used for dairying purposes. The live stock on farms is returned by the collectors of agricultural statistics, who are instructed to supplement the information they obtain at the holdings they visit with estimates of the stock running on commons, of that kept by persons having allotments of less than an acre in extent, of that stalled and stabled in towns and villages, and of that belonging to road carters traversing their districts. For some of the larger towns the collectors have been unable to furnish estimates, and for these the census figures have been taken. The return of stock on stations has been compiled, as far as possible, from estimates furnished by the squatters in reply to inquiries made by the Government statist. In a considerable number of instances, however, these inquiries have not been responded to, and in such cases it has been necessary to supply the particulars from the returns of former years. Every endeavour is made to give as true a statement as possible of the numbers of all the stock in the Colony; but it is necessary to point out that portion of the information is derived from estimates which can only be verified at a general census:—

Live Stock on Farms and on Stations 1877 *and* 1878.

Year ended 31st March	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
ON FARMS AND LAND UNCONNECTED WITH STATIONS.						
1877 -	177,483	264,648	694,498	959,146	6,444,786	171,729
1878 -	185,671	256,780	741,489	998,269	5,611,964	179,209
Increase -	8,188	—	46,991	39,123	—	7,480
Decrease -	—	7,868	—	—	832,822	—
ON STATIONS.						
1877 -	17,285	12,424	156,695	169,119	4,834,107	3,849
1878 -	17,479	11,330	164,577	175,907	4,502,303	4,182
Increase -	194	—	7,882	6,788	—	333
Decrease -	—	1,094	—	—	331,804	—
TOTAL LIVE STOCK.						
1877 -	194,768	277,072	851,193	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578
1878	203,150	268,110	906,066	1,174,176	10,114,267	183,391
Increase -	8,382	—	54,873	45,911	—	—
Decrease -	—	8,962	—	—	1,164,626	7,813

252. The following is an estimate of the value of pastoral produce raised on holdings of all descriptions in 1877–8.

Value of pastoral produce.

Value of Pastoral Produce, 1877–8.

Nature of Produce.	Value.
	£
Milk, butter, and cheese, from average number of milch cows kept, viz., 268,110 at 10*l.*	2,681,100
Estimated net numbers* of stock slaughtered in 1877 :—	
Cattle, 141,698 at 11*l.*	1,558,678
Sheep, 652,891 at 12*s.*	391,735
Pigs, 74,235 at 2*l.* 10*s.*	185,588
Estimated value of produce of horse stock, 10,158 at 8*l.*	81,264
Excess of exports over imports of wool, customs value	3,640,742
Estimated value of wool used in the Colony for manufacturing purposes, 1,511,514 lbs. at 1*s.* 6*d.*	113,364
Total	8,652,471

253. The manufacturing establishments of all kinds, respecting which returns are obtained, are named in the following table, and their numbers are given for the year under review, also the number of hands employed, and the approximate value of plant, lands, and buildings. The establishments are for the most part of an extensive character, the only exception being in cases where the existence of industries of an unusual or interesting nature might seem to call for notice. No attempt is made to enumerate mere shops, although some manufacturing industry may be carried on thereat. Were this done, the "manufactories" in the Colony might be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent. It is customary to note all establishments where machinery worked by steam, water, wind, or horse-power is used.

Manufactories, works, &c.

Manufactories, Works, &c., 1877–8.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.			
			£
Account book manufactories, manufacturing stationers	10	575	79,567
Printing establishments	47	1,617	259,037
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Organ building establishments	2	18	3,220
Pianoforte manufactories	8	37	7,600
PRINTS, PICTURES, &C.			
Picture-frame makers, carvers, and gilders	10	40	18,045

* The "net numbers" slaughtered are made up by adding the gross numbers slaughtered to the increase of cattle and pigs during 1877, and subtracting therefrom the net imports of live stock added to the decrease of sheep during 1877.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
CARVING, FIGURES, &c.			
India-rubber stamp manufactories	2	3	1,857
Modelling (architectural and figure) &c., works	4	12	4,680
Statuary works	1	2	2,000
Turnery works	10	27	6,990
Wood carving and ornamental works	1	10	600
Wooden pipe manufactories	1	3	1,050
DESIGNS, MEDALS, AND DIES.			
Diesinkers, engravers, medalists, trade mark makers	4	29	6,000
PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c.			
Philosophical instrument manufactories	6	14	4,310
Spectacles manufactories	1	3	1,250
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Surgical instrument, truss manufactories	8	30	6,603
ARMS, AMMUNITION, &c.			
Blasting powder, dynamite, &c. manufactories	3	51	8,150
Fuze manufactories	1	16	4,000
Gun makers	7	26	10,367
MACHINES, TOOLS, AND IMPLEMENTS.			
Agricultural implement manufactories	40	879	90,705
Bellows manufactories	2	8	1,580
Cutlery, machine tool manufactories	8	22	7,560
Engine, machine manufactories	45	1,052	158,554
CARRIAGES AND HARNESS.			
Coach, waggon, &c. manufactories	127	1,499	165,453
Saddle harness manufactories	39	348	68,821
Saddletree, &c. manufactories	1	8	700
Saddlers' ironmongery and coach-spring manufactories	5	22	5,375
Whip manufactories	4	39	3,940
SHIPS AND BOATS.			
Ship, boat builders	17	80	8,450
Ships' wheels, blocks, &c. manufactories	2	7	2,600
Graving docks	4	99	422,468
Patent slips	1	50	14,000
HOUSES, BUILDINGS, &c.			
Door and window-frame works (*see also* moulding, &c., mills, *post*)	2	24	4,280
Lime works	26	148	10,044
Patent ceiling ventilator manufactories	2	7	1,950
Roof-covering composition manufactories	1	2	520

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
FURNITURE.			
Bedding and upholstery manufactories -	15	251	25,635
Cabinet works, including billiard table makers	36	531	49,885
Earth-closet manufactories - - -	3	25	4,300
Iron safe manufactories - - -	2	10	1,470
Looking glass manufactories - - -	6	36	16,180
CHEMICALS.			
Chemical works - - - -	5	53	26,500
Dye works - - - - -	13	74	18,855
Essential oil manufactories - - -	2	3	880
Ink, blacking, blue, washing powder, &c. manufactories - - - -	8	95	11,900
Match (vesta) manufactories - - -	1	27	1,100
Paint, varnish manufactories - - -	2	16	6,200
Salt works - - - - -	4	24	3,122
Sulphate of ammonia works - - -	1	2	1,170
Tar-distilling, asphalte works - - -	4	26	4,110
TEXTILE FABRICS.			
Woollen mills - - - - -	8	736	196,613
DRESS.			
Boot manufactories - - - -	76	2,470	109,975
Clothing factories - - - -	66	4,123	181,127
Fur manufactories - - - -	2	12	2,240
Hat, cap manufactories - - -	29	271	41,385
Oilskin, waterproof clothing manufactories -	3	20	3,605
Umbrella and parasol manufactories - -	6	25	8,110
FIBROUS MATERIALS.			
Jute factories - - - - -	1	150	23,500
Rope, twine works - - - -	15	311	56,991
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Cheese factories - - - -	24	83	13,437
Meat-curing establishments - - -	16	390	59,285
VEGETABLE FOOD.			
Biscuit manufactories - - - -	10	342	36,650
Confectionery works - - - -	8	162	30 610
Flour mills - - - - -	150	721	496,317
Jam manufactories - - - -	8	207	23,115
Macaroni works - - - -	2	3	445
Maizena, oatmeal, starch manufactories -	3	17	4,400
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.			
Aërated waters, ginger beer, liqueur, &c. works	104	592	110,873
Breweries - - - - -	109	939	458,004
Coffee, chocolate, spice works - - -	11	139	57,790
Chicory mills - - - - -	2	10	2,550
Distilleries - - - - -	5	39	31,200
Malthouses - - - - -	13	77	57,550
Sauce, pickle manufactories - - -	4	25	5,345

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Appproximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
Sugar refineries	2	184	202,000
Tobacco, cigars, snuff manufactories	13	725	66,250
Vinegar works	4	31	8,050
ANIMAL MATTERS.			
Boiling-down establishments	23	94	13,434
Bone-cutting mills	1	4	590
Bone manure manufactories	15	83	28,600
Brush manufactories	7	136	16,400
Curled hair manufactories	3	19	3,580
Wool-washing establishments	27	389	46,873
Flock manufactories	3	13	8,600
Glue, oil manufactories	8	40	9,850
Morocco fancy leather manufactories	2	9	2,575
Portmanteau, trunk manufactories	6	38	12,168
Soap, candle, tallow works	38	434	136,775
Tanneries and fellmongeries	116	1,570	243,939
VEGETABLE MATTERS.			
Bark mills	11	61	13,595
Basket-making works	8	40	5,605
Blind (window) manufactories	11	107	10,080
Broom manufactories	1	16	5,200
Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing works	179	607	148,538
Cooperage works	17	91	17,536
Cork manufactories	1	4	770
Fancy box manufactories	2	25	2,550
Hat-box manufactories	2	8	1,200
Ladders and steps joineries	1	4	410
Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills (*see also* houses, buildings, &c. *ante*)	150	2,768	328,145
Paper manufactories	1	131	31,000
Paper-bag manufactories	5	142	14,450
Tent, tarpaulin, manufactories	8	58	13,627
COAL.			
Gas works	16	311	881,059
STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.			
Brickyards and potteries	224	1,104	173,068
Filter manufactories	2	8	1,292
Glass manufactories, works	5	109	13,600
Marble and monumental works	28	286	44,130
Stone-breaking works	5	137	7,370
Stone-sawing, polishing works	2	42	19,400
WATER.			
Ice manufactories	3	19	9,940
GOLD, SILVER, AND PRECIOUS STONES.			
Electro-plating and gilding works	6	33	9,600
Goldsmiths and jewellers (manufacturing)	19	361	55,400
Lapidaries	1	2	1,250

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
METALS OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER.			£
Antimony smelting works - - -	4	45	6,900
Bell foundries - - - - -	1	2	1,300
Iron and tin works - - - -	61	833	144,254
Iron, brass, and copper foundries - -	88	1,663	295,557
Lead works - - - - -	1	12	18,000
Tin-smelting works - - - -	1	2	200
Type foundries - - - -	1	2	2,700
Wire-working establishments - - -	8	42	13,380
Total - - -	2,370	32,688	6,665,540

254. The quantity of gold raised in Victoria during 1877 was 809,653 ounces, which at 4*l.* per ounce is equivalent to a total value of 3,238,612*l.* Gold raised, 1877.

255. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1870 and each subsequent year. It will be seen that since 1871 the yield of gold has been steadily decreasing :— Gold raised, 1870 to 1877.

Estimated Quantity of Gold raised, 1870 *to* 1877.

	oz.
1870 - - - -	1,222,798
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653

256. Carrying on to the end of 1877 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851 :— Gold raised, 1851 to 1877.

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1877.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	oz.	£
Prior to 1877 - - -	46,473,724	185,894,896
During 1877 - - -	809,653	3,238,612
Total - -	47,283,377	189,133,508

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Value of gold per miner.

257. The estimated value of gold raised in proportion to the number of miners at work was much less in 1877 than in 1876, or than in any other year since 1870. The following figures express this proportion for each of the last eight years:—

Value of Gold per Miner, 1870 *to* 1877.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1870 - - -	81	0	6·46
1871 - - -	93	6	0·62
1872 - - -	93	17	1·47
1873 - - -	93	16	2·62
1874 - - -	99	8	3·07
1875 - - -	104	4	4·02
1876 - - -	89	19	6·84
1877 - - -	82	6	1·69

Value of metals and minerals other than gold, 1851 to 1877.

258. The following are the values of metals and minerals other than gold raised in Victoria from 1851 to the end of 1877. Of these productions the values in 1877 amounted to 35,637*l.*:—

Value of Metals and Minerals other than Gold, 1851 *to* 1877.

	£
Silver - - - -	26,136
Tin - - - -	340,692
Copper - - - -	10,987
Antimony - - - -	137,401
Lead - - - -	4,892
Iron - - - -	2,111
Coal - - - -	13,505
Lignite - - - -	2,320
Kaolin - - - -	7,444
Flagging - - - -	43,158
Slates - - - -	940
Magnesite - - - -	12
Ores, mineral earthy, clays, &c. unenumerated - - -	2,608
Diamonds - - - -	107
Sapphires, &c. - - -	630
Total - - -	£592,943

Value of mining produce.

259. The estimated value of the produce raised from Victorian mines in 1877 was as follows:—

Value of Mining Produce, 1877.

	£
Value of gold raised - - -	3,238,612
„ other metals and minerals -	35,637
	£3,274,249

VICTORIA.

Agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce.

260. The estimated value of agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce raised in Victoria during each of the last four years is given in the following table. In all the years the value of the pastoral produce exceeded that of the other two industries combined:—

Value of Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mining Produce, 1874 to 1877.

Year.	Estimated Value of			Total.
	Agricultural Produce.	Pastoral Produce.	Mining Produce.	
	£	£	£	£
1874 -	4,410,436	9,840,562	4,659,341	18,910,339
1875 -	4,835,894	9,541,551	4,418,600	18,796,045
1876 -	5,574,239	10,069,570	3,886,418	19,530,227
1877 -	5,792,898	8,652,471	3,274,249	17,719,618

Victorian Year Book.

261. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1877–8."

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist of Victoria.

* This is an official publication by the Government statist, published annually, and may be obtained from John Ferres, Government printer, Melbourne, or George Robertson, 17, Warwick Square, London.

DIGEST OF THE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA FOR THE YEAR 1877.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of VICTORIA from 1868 to 1877 inclusive.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	General Revenue.*	General Expenditure.*	Crown Land Sales.†		Land in Cultivation.	Live Stock.				Postage.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Area sold.	Amount realised.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.	No. of Newspapers.
									£	£	Acres.	£	Acres.							
1868	674,614	373,232	301,382	27,243	10,067	4,692	32,805	25,552	3,230,754	3,189,321	275,649	359,703	712,865	143,934	693,682	9,756,819	136,206	633	9,749,716	4,974,102
1869	699,790	385,561	314,229	26,040	10,630	4,735	33,570	22,418	3,383,984	3,226,165	725,110	794,543	827,534	161,830	692,518	9,923,663	111,464	651	10,582,711	5,251,327
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087	3,261,883	3,428,382	337,507	463,821	909,015	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	677	11,133,283	5,287,482
1871	752,445	412,009	340,436	27,382	9,918	4,693	28,333	19,951	1,691,266*	1,754,251*	378,516	528,119	937,220	181,643	799,509	10,002,381	177,447	706	11,716,166	5,172,970
1872	770,727	419,903	350,824	27,361	10,831	4,791	27,047	25,295	3,734,422	3,659,534	752,161	859,142	963,091	185,796	812,289	10,575,219	193,722	733	12,941,095	5,490,772
1873	790,492	430,042	360,450	28,100	11,501	4,974	29,460	26,294	3,644,135	3,504,953	529,309	621,472	964,996	180,342	883,763	11,323,080	160,336	764	14,175,085	6,080,007
1874	808,437	439,159	369,278	26,800	12,222	4,925	30,732	27,365	4,106,790	4,177,338	531,538	579,051	1,011,776	180,254	958,658	11,221,036	137,941	802	15,738,888	6,866,918
1875	823,272	447,148	376,124	26,720	15,287	4,985	32,744	29,342	4,236,423	4,318,121	418,561	630,054	1,126,831	196,184	1,054,598	11,749,532	140,765	855	17,134,101	7,552,912
1876	840,300	456,463	383,837	26,769	13,561	4,949	35,797	31,977	4,325,156	4,572,844	476,038	584,913	1,231,105	194,768	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578	886	18,963,503	9,010,147
1877	860,787	467,741	393,046	26,010	12,776	5,103	41,196	33,943	4,723,877	4,358,096	323,082	375,494	1,420,502	203,150	1,174,176	10,114,267	183,391	948	20,910,958	9,809,964

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are for the year ended 31st December of each year until 1871, when the financial year was changed so as to terminate on the 30th June. The figures for 1871 are therefore for the six months ended 30th June, and the figures for subsequent years are for the twelve months ended 30th June.

† In addition to the quantity of land sold and amount realized within the year, the figures under the head "Land Sales" represent, during each of the years after 1868, the total extent of, and amount paid on, lands purchased under deferred payments of which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1868 to 1877 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Vessels built.		Vessels registered.		Mortgages and Liens.		Imports.	Imports of		Exports.	Exports of						
	Inwards.		Outwards.									Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).			Wool.†		Tallow.		Hides and Skins.	Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Amount secured.	Total Value.	Quantity.*	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.*	Value.
										£	£	Bushels.	£	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	£	Bush.	£
1868	2,067	653,362	2,172	685,207	6	296	41	7,105	3,509	3,485,315	13,320,662	416,017	147,282	15,593,999	68,010,591	4,567,182	12,104,960	160,909	33,619	853,979	90,421
1869	2,320	721,274	2,334	730,961	7	303	45	9,006	4,036	4,701,485	13,908,990	810,987	233,887	13,464,354	54,431,367	3,363,075	14,259,616	237,084	60,461	91,398	28,368
1870	2,093	663,764	2,187	681,098	5	667	29	5,503	4,410	4,203,743	12,455,758	104,224	25,249	12,470,014	52,123,451	3,205,106	22,158,080	358,863	33,649	199,878	52,941
1871	2,137	663,002	2,257	692,023	8	837	46	11,015	4,849	4,278,197	12,341,995	1,295,015	385,325	14,557,820	76,334,480	4,702,164	30,422,672	469,069	39,858	115,432	37,864
1872	2,104	666,336	2,234	694,426	10	478	42	8,146	5,151	4,076,229	13,691,322	585,688	179,352	13,871,195	58,648,977	4,651,665	22,656,088	353,358	49,169	195,725	62,058
1873	2,187	756,103	2,226	762,912	3	187	50	12,640	5,155	5,248,365	16,533,856	65,167	16,204	15,302,454	74,893,882	5,738,638	15,373,120	233,091	53,659	203,255	68,539
1874	2,100	777,110	2,122	792,509	5	1,083	44	12,522	5,929	6,019,904	16,953,985	136,004	37,078	15,441,109	88,662,284	6,373,676	13,591,760	199,564	56,993	176,718	63,399
1875	2,171	840,386	2,223	833,499	24	1,762	53	8,519	6,035	4,542,569	16,685,874	284,605	71,137	14,766,974	85,064,952	6,096,958	13,910,736	203,243	50,454	84,236	36,076
1876	2,086	810,062	2,150	847,026	23	1,013	42	8,484	6,417	5,081,387	15,705,354	355,704	96,007	14,196,487	106,265,877	6,413,754	11,424,000	174,507	59,052	96,773	40,542
1877	2,192	939,661	2,219	935,324	7	425	26	6,588	6,510	4,706,138	16,362,304	80,166	24,370	15,157,687	98,468,208	5,670,871	6,048,000	90,455	35,570	464,284	73,960

* The quantities of flour, bread, and biscuit imported and exported are reduced to their equivalent in bushels, on the assumption that one bushel of wheat produces 45 lbs. of either of those articles.

† Since the year 1864 a considerable quantity of wool has each year been imported into Victoria across the Murray, from the Riverina district of New South Wales, for transport by railway to Melbourne and shipment thence. Prior to 1872 no precise record of the quantity so introduced was kept at the Customs. It has, however, been ascertained that at least 13,000,000 lbs. of wool, valued at 972,000*l.*, crossed the Murray into Victoria in the year 1870, and the following amounts in the years named:—19,552,598 lbs., valued at 1,096,772*l.*, in 1872; 31,542,913 lbs., valued at 1,745,550*l.*, in 1873; 35,332,089 lbs., valued at 1,975,879*l.*, in 1874; 40,535,081 lbs., valued at 2,260,799*l.*, in 1875; 44,430,185 lbs., valued at 2,039,009*l.*, in 1876; and 37,647,218 lbs., valued at 1,661,868*l.* in 1877.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1868 to 1877 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Export of Gold.*		Public Debt.	Government Expenditure† on					Railways.‡			Electric Telegraphs.			Banks of Issue.			
	Quantity.	Value.		Railways.	Roads and Bridges.	Melbourne Water Supply (Yan Yean).	Other Waterworks.	Other Public Works.	Miles Opened.	Train Miles Travelled.	Total Receipts.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.	Number of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£					£	£	£
1868	1,960,713	7,843,197	9,417,800	103,076	110,548	59,041	144,216	182,476	271	1,538,964	712,766	86	3,171	254,288	10	8,320,624	16,252,007	11,679,164
1869	1,700,973	6,804,179	10,385,900	104,612	90,735	29,795	152,775	267,603	271	1,563,274	758,470	91	3,368	276,742	10	8,347,500	17,665,861	11,956,575
1870	1,529,821	6,119,782	11,924,800	192,420	36,832	20,716	93,553	191,573	274	1,495,719	699,273	95	3,371	454,598§	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571
1871	1,647,389	6,590,962	11,994,800	242,508†	35,328†	11,501†	97,176†	97,088†	276	917,960	401,389	96	3,472	537,398	10	8,276,250	17,222,093	12,862,650
1872	1,298,839	5,197,340	11,984,800	566,831	42,192	9,140	17,945	264,761	329	1,571,682	771,638	117	3,634	639,960	10	8,276,250	18,125,902	13,935,047
1873	1,291,014	5,168,614	12,445,722	853,179	38,126	24,213	227,427	186,464	377	1,766,717	857,745	135	3,928	718,167	10	8,366,250	19,943,959	14,092,995
1874	1,012,153	4,053,288	13,990,553	816,616	102,922	70,893	212,378	390,955	457½	2,109,227	1,016,925	148	4,293	701,080	11	8,503,033	20,456,852	14,105,460
1875	794,164	3,177,905	13,995,093	984,624	99,451	81,404	95,672	359,159	603	2,502,838	1,091,937	164	4,510	732,869	12	8,572,120	22,279,482	15,483,172
1876	525,630	2,103,591	17,011,332	956,411	66,690	80,141	142,354	348,596	719	2,872,071	1,216,537	181	4,745	801,946	12	8,630,745	23,918,123	16,527,277
1877	521,176	2,090,112	17,018,913	1,019,201	16,759	39,565	170,374	258,638	950	3,271,007	1,319,638	206	5,200	919,985	13	8,756,894	26,258,439	18,183,119

* The returns of gold exports for the four years 1852-55 contain, in addition to the amounts which passed through the Customs of this Colony, the following quantities of Victorian gold which passed through the Customs of the adjacent Colonies without being recorded in Victoria:—1852, 749,957 oz., value 2,624,851*l.*; 1853, 652,297 oz., value 2,446,114*l.*; 1854, 247,366 oz., value 958,543*l.*; 1855, 41,530 oz., value 166,120*l.* Total 1,691,150 oz., value 6,195,628*l.* No estimate has been given of the further quantity of gold taken out of the Colony by private hand and not recorded in any Custom House. The returns show the gross exports. Scarcely any gold appears in the import returns until after the gold export duty was abolished at the end of 1857. Since then the following are the imports of gold, chiefly from New Zealand:—1868, 326,550 oz., value 1,305,825*l.*; 1869, 363,716 oz., value 1,415,473*l.*; 1870, 376,926 oz., value 1,507,068*l.*; 1871, 329,181 oz., value 1,317,018*l.*; 1872, 246,641 oz., value 986,494*l.*; 1873, 252,576 oz., value 991,410*l.*; 1874, 220,541 oz., value 881,717*l.*; 1875, 216,666 oz., value 859,419*l.*; 1876, 138,555 oz., value 553,821*l.*; 1877. 108,806 oz., value 433,961*l.*

† The expenditure for 1871 is for the first six months only Prior to that date the expenditure was for the year ended 31st December. Since that date it has been for the year ended 30th June. The figures do not include amounts expended by municipal governments.

‡ These returns are those of the Government and private railways combined. The former are for the year ended 31st December until 1870; those for 1871 are for the six months ended 30th June, those for 1872 and three following years are for the twelve months ended 30th June, and those after 1876 are for the year ended 31st December. The returns of private railways are for the year ended 31st December throughout.

§ The increase in the number of telegrams commencing in 1870 was consequent on a reduction in the rates.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1868 to 1877 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Savings Banks.*			Friendly Societies.†		Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.			Flour Mills.	Mining Machines.	Manufactories, Works, &c. (exclusive of Flour Mills).	Churches and Chapels.	Schools.		Melbourne University.		Number of Persons			
	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.					Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Direct Graduates.	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	Executed.
			£				£	£		£	£												
1868	84	32,506	805,830	441	28,596	62	21,503,942	500,324	101	22,628,604	371,368	136	6,068	1,180	1,870	1,430	97,884	47	13	24,384	901	526	3
1869	110	37,494	978,619	507	32,092	63	21,630,909	423,984	108	24,429,873	534,123	149	6,561	1,381	1,967	1,722	151,844	53	17	24,770	842	486	3
1870	123	41,738	1,047,147	592	34,224	65	22,607.630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881	147	6,418	1,432	2,134	1,867	154,353	82	10	23,790	908	573	5
1871	134	45,819	1,117,761	590	35,707	63	23,268,410	406,101	108	26,897,668	522,033	154	6,054	1,586	2,210	2,050	165,276	93	19	22,800	781	511	2
1872	141	52,749	1,405,738	683	42,402	60	23,929,035	391,936	110	29,105,169	541,817	163	5,779	1,607	2,295	1,936	160,743	88	14	23,705	688	430	2
1873	151	58,547	1,498,618	720	44,602	60	25,391,990	410,508	110	31,415,663	529,426	157	5,699	1,646	2,284	1,731	226,254	98	21	24,959	729	450	5
1874	157	64,014	1,617,301	710	42,665	60	27,324,605	449,574	110	32,890,838	535,440	161	5,220	1,943	2,455	1,721	238,592	118	24	23,856	694	436	—
1875	162	65,837	1,469,849	757	45,921	59	28,123,803	462,323	108	37,637,258	638,962	157	5,098	2,084	2,519	1,885	248,014	93	29	25,247	744	427	4
1876	170	69,027	1,507,235	761	45,957	59	29,638,515	446,256	110	43,435,832	595,146	152	4,893	2,150	2,602	2,143	260,407	73	28	25,281	680	384	3
1877	177	73,235	1,575,305	770	46,024	59	29,332,030	459,108	111	46,093,419	535,496	150	4,540	2,220	2,715	2,156	262,941	103	26	26,532	594	340	1

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. Hence the increase in the amounts in these columns from that year. The returns for the Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December, those for the ordinary Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June.

† These figures do not give particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the Colony, but only of such as furnished returns in each year.

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

TASMANIA.

No. 11.

STATISTICS of the COLONY of TASMANIA for the year 1877.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
July 16, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to place in your hands the statistics of this Colony for the year 1877, and to offer thereon such observations as the nature of the case may seem to require.

The "Statistical Returns Act" of last session has operated favourably, and stimulated many persons to supply the particulars required from them with considerably greater promptitude than on former occasions; but there are still some cases in which the statistical work is seriously delayed through the carelessness or incompetence of individuals. After having observed the effect of the Act during the present year, however, and noted the instances in which its provisions have been disregarded, it will be more easy next year to apply an effective remedy in time to avoid the delays of the present.

Part I., being the "Blue Book," may be passed over without comment.

II.—POPULATION.

The population of Tasmania, on the 31st December last, is estimated to have been as follows:—

Males - - - -	56,523
Females - - - -	50,581
	107,104

having increased during the year by 1,620, or 1·54 per cent. In the previous year the increase was calculated to be 1,821.

The accession by excess of births over deaths in 1877 was 1,171, being 1,419 in 1876; and by excess of immigration over emigration, 447, as against 402 in 1876. The emigration, however, may very probably have been somewhat greater than it appears by the returns to have been. It was one of the recommendations of the Conference of Statisticians of these Colonies in 1875, that the outward movements of the population should be ascertained from the countries at which the emigrants arrived, and not from the accounts kept at the ports of departure. An arrangement was entered into between the different Governments that returns should be regularly exchanged with this view, and has been carried out as regards Victoria and New South Wales; but from the other Colonies the needful information has either not been supplied, or else so irregularly as not to be of any use. While,

therefore, the emigration to Victoria and New South Wales has been taken from statements supplied by themselves as being more complete than any that could be furnished here, that to other places has necessarily been obtained from the Customs department in this Colony, and must err to some extent on the side of defect, since there are always some passengers whose names do not appear on the lists at the point of departure.

The mean population, or that at the middle of the year (which is made the basis of all statistical calculations), is estimated to have been 106,294, or 1,721 above that of 1876.

Immigration and Emigration.

The number of passengers, both to and from the Colony, was greater in 1877 than in 1876, being as follows :—

——	Inwards.	Outwards.
1877 - - - -	9,717	9,270
1876 - - - -	8,571	8,169
Increase - - -	1,146	1,101

The per-centage being, inwards 13·37, outwards 13·48 ; or, putting both together, the increase in the movement generally of the population was 13·42 per cent. The passenger traffic is confined almost entirely to the three Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand ; and during last year it was divided between them in the following proportions :—

——	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Victoria - - - -	8,682	89·34	8,182	88·26
New South Wales - -	688	7·08	806	8·69
New Zealand - - -	309	3·18	249	2·69
Other countries - -	38	0·40	33	0·36

In regard to Victoria, in 1876 there was a balance of 526 in favour of Tasmania; in 1877, of only 500. New South Wales gave a balance against us of 66 in 1876, and 118 in the next year. As regards New Zealand, the tide altogether turned from ebb to flow; the excess of emigrants, 56, in 1876 having been converted into one of 60 immigrants in 1877. As to all other countries, in 1876 there was a preponderance of 2 departures; in 1877, of 5 arrivals.

Only 7 "bounty" or assisted immigrants were introduced in 1877, against 48 in the previous year.

Naturalization.

Eleven persons were naturalised in 1877, all being Germans with the exception of one, who is a Dane.

III.—TRADE, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION.

Imports.

The value of the imports in 1877 amounted to 1,308,671*l.*, being greater by 175,668*l.*, or 15·50 per cent., than in the preceding year. Since the beginning of the decennium it has increased by 54·84 per cent.

The rate per head of mean population was 13*l.* 3*s.* 11¾*d.*, against 10*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.* in 1876. In 1868 it was, per head, 9*l.* 4*s.* 11¼*d.*, and in 1869 only 8*l.* 3*s.* 6¼*d.*; and in 1870 it was further reduced to 7*l.* 6*s.* 3¼*d.*; so that in seven years (both included) it increased by over 80 per cent.

It will be interesting to compare the imports of some of the principal articles in 1877 and in 1873, five years previoualy :—

—	1873.	1877.
	£	£
Wearing apparel, slops, and drapery	292,626	353,538
Blankets and other "woollens"	16,466	14,201
Carpets and rugs	5,599	12,129
Boots and shoes	23,353	27,629
Candles	3,919	5,518
Oils	12,247	16,407
Coal and coke	13,314	29,118
Cocoa and chocolate	1,066	1,969
Coffee	4,771	4,362
Sugar	145,816*	128,009
Confectionery	4,253	6,366
Chicory	913	749
Tea	59,660†	42,378
Corn sacks	26,546	2,127
Earthen and glass ware	9,838	17,309
Fruits, dried	6,013	9,606
Hides and skins	12,995	7,261
Ironmongery, hardware, &c.	56,958	81,322
Iron and tin	26,978	30,880
Jewellery and plate	6,057	17,501
Live stock, cattle	8,240	12,355
„ horses	800	9,745
„ sheep	12,958‡	7,465
Machinery	8,035	17,985
Malt liquors	7,693	9,754
Spirits	25,528	32,251
Wines	11,933	10,259
Musical instruments	7,298	13,562
Oils (not including for export)	12,247	16,407
Oilmen's stores	7,974	11,508
Saddlery and leatherware	3,785	11,952
Stationery	22,095	33,850
Tobacco and cigars	21,757	19,698
Woolpacks	6,375	3,677
Ad valorem goods	5,622	26,386

These figures show generally a large increase on the necessaries of life, luxuries, and commodities in common use, much greater

* Exceptionally large. In 1875, 114,009*l.*; in 1876, 119,530*l.*

† In 1874, 41,030*l.*; in 1875, 35,470*l.* ‡ In 1874, 19,795*l.*; in 1875, 22,167*l.*

than that of the population in the same period. There are some decreases which can be accounted for by special causes.

The following table shows the quantities of certain articles of general consumption taken out of bond during the last three years, being in continuation of the similar table given in the report for the year 1874:—

Years.	Spirits.	Wine.	Malt Liquors.	Tea.	Sugar.	Cocoa and Chocolate.	Coffee and Chicory.	Tobacco and Cigars.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	lbs.	cwts.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1875 - - -	77,741	21,670	42,118	614,529	76,431	32,815	147,752	157,818
1876 - - -	82,401	23,047	39,756	657,591	81,949	32,665	106,833	164,054
1877 - - -	76,874*	23,171	43,614	716,309	78,003	35,757	139,204	174,390
Mean, 1875-77 -	79,005	22,629	41,829	662,810	78,794	33,746	131,263	165,421
Mean, 1872-74 -	67,569	21,555	39,656	622,219	79,973	22,865	136,838	160,730
Mean, 1869-71 -	66,088	20,013	44,059	551,644	63,674	20,180	177,443	160,808

The increases, as between the first and last periods, per cent. are,—spirits, 1·95; wine, 13·07; tea, 20·15; sugar, 23·75; cocoa and chocolate, 67·22; tobacco, 2·87. On malt liquors and coffee and chicory there was a decrease. The increase of population in the same interval was only 4·07 per cent.; so that the consumption of wine advanced about 3 times, of tea about 4 times, of sugar about 6 times, and of cocoa about 17 times faster than the population.

Exports.

The exports were valued at 1,416,975*l.*, the increase being 285,992*l.*, or 25·29 per cent. Since 1868 they have increased at the rate of 53·88 per cent. Tasmanian produce was valued at 1,403,580*l.*, and that of other countries at 13,395*l.*

The rate per head of population has advanced from 9*l.* 4*s.* 11¼*d.* in 1868 to 13*l.* 6*s.* 7¼*d.* in 1877, with two exceptions, continuously.

The exports to the different countries, with the increase as compared with those of 1876, are shown below:—

	Value.	Increase.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	632,741	82,991
Victoria - - - - -	316,729	28,381
New South Wales - - - -	342,590	167,113
New Zealand - - - -	72,095	1,497
Queensland - - - - -	21,608	1,140
South Australia - - - -	28,474	5,012
Mauritius - - - - -	986	986
Other British Possessions - - -	49	49
Foreign States - - - -	1,703	Decrease. 1,177

* No brandy was taken out of bond at Hobart Town during the year.

TASMANIA.

These figures are worthy of careful attention. The first thing that strikes us is the enormous increase of the trade with New South Wales, amounting to 95·24 per cent. *in one year.* This increase is the largest which has occurred during the last 10 years, but there has been a steady regular advance from 82,426*l.* in 1869. The increase as regards the United Kingdom is 15·09, as regards South Australia 21·36 per cent.; while as regards Victoria it was only 9·85 per cent. Now, taking into consideration the fact that Victoria is, of all our customers, the nearest, and that we have the closest relations with her in matters of trade, it is but natural that we should look to her for the largest proportion of the increase. But instead of this, we find that other countries twice, six times, even 50 times as distant, have a larger rate of increase than herself! We can attribute this anomaly to one cause only—protection; and we must regard the more favourable relation in which the other countries named stand with ourselves in this respect as another added to the already innumerable proofs of the advantages of free trade.

The exports in 1877, as compared with those of 1876, show the following increases:—

Bran and pollard, tons - -	181
Fruit, green, bushels - - -	13,669
„ preserved, lbs. - - -	383,077
Wheat, bushels - - -	52,163
Oats, bushels - - - -	64,850
Barley, bushels - - -	26,128
Hides, skins, and leather (value) -	£2,501
Sheep, No. - - - -	4
Oatmeal, tons - - -	91
Timber (value) - - -	£7,758
Tin ore, tons - - - -	2,982
„ smelted, tons - -	1,149
Vegetables (value) - - -	£7,832
Wool, lbs. - - - -	1,167,879

The quantity of preserved fruit, of oatmeal, and of wool exceeded that in any other year in the decennium. The export of tin only began in 1873 with 4 tons, but increased in 1877 to 5,747 tons, or 256 per cent. as compared with that of the previous year. Tin now ranks as the second of our staple commodities, the value in 1877 being 296,941*l.*, wool being the first. Of the latter, 8,016,396 lbs. were exported in that year, being the largest quantity ever shipped from Tasmania in any one year.

On bark, butter and cheese, flour, gold, hops, horses, and oil there was a decrease. The quantity of flour (223 tons) was the smallest in the decennial period, the trade having declined year by year in proportion as the power of the other Colonies to supply their own wants has increased. That on gold amounted to 3,549 ozs., or about 34 per cent. With one exception, that of the previous year, the export of gold was, however, the largest in the 10 years.

The decrease on hops was considerable, 122,387 lbs. The quantity has not been so small since 1872. The decrease on horses was 62, the number being, with one exception (1870), the smallest in the last 10 years. On oil (sperm) it was 62 tuns, the export of 1877 being, however, a fair average.

Among the minor articles of Tasmanian produce exported in that year which are not of sufficient importance to be included in the decennial table are the following:—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Blankets and other manufactures of wool, packages -	72	1,308
Cider, gallons - - - - - -	686	82
Hats and caps, packages - - - -	84	2,051
Lime, bushels - - - - - -	65,554	1,917
Mustard seed, bushels - - - - -	52	26
Malt, bushels - - - - - -	3,504	1,124
Shot, lbs. - - - - - -	25,760	407
Seeds, plants, &c., packages - - - -	3,335	2,777
Osiers, cwts. - - - - - -	1,013	913
Stone, tons - - - - - -	1,091	2,063
Slates, No. - - - - - -	284,030	2,742
Tallow, cwts. - - - - - -	911	1,444
Rabbits, dozs. - - - - - -	869	208

Pig iron, 3,973 tons, and iron ore, 11 tons, were also exported; but during the year the works were suspended in consequence of the demand in the Colonies for iron in that state not being sufficiently great to make the manufacture profitable, and it has since been resolved to wind up the company. In the course of years, when a favourable conjunction of circumstances occurs, the production of iron will probably become one of the chief sources of wealth to this Colony, the richness and abundance of the ore being such that nothing but the necessary conditions is required to bring about that result. I am glad to learn that since the foregoing paragraph was written an improved mode of treating the ore has been discovered, and arrangements have been made for re-organising the company on a new basis.

The total sea-borne trade in 1877 represented a value of 2,725,646*l.*, against 2,263,986*l.* in 1876, the difference in favour of the former year being 461,660*l.*

Goods in Bond.

The stocks in bond show no great variation as between the 31st December 1877 and the last day of 1876. The principal differences were the following:—

——	1877.	1876.
Candles, lbs. - - - -	7,850	2,375
Chicory, lbs. - - - -	15,680	22,404
Fruits, dried, lbs. - - - -	49,046	16,253

—	1877.	1876.
Beer, doz. qts.	4,045	2,954
Rice, lbs.	19,795	36,804
Sacks, corn, No.	900	40,300
Sago, lbs.	4,418	14,403
Salt, cwts.	80	1,033
Spirits :		
Brandy, galls.	15,449	18,745
Rum, galls.	16,177	13,439
Whisky, galls.	6,105	4,263
Starch, lbs.	21,628	12,429
Tea, lbs.	146,174	240,608
Tobacco, lbs.	95,412	67,431

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of shipping inwards in the two last years was,—

Number.	1876.	1877.
Sailing vessels	429	448
Steamers	210	230
	639	678

Tonnage.	1876.	1877.
Sailing vessels	71,204	75,574
Steamers	69,977	83,734
	141,181	159,308

The increase on the tonnage being nearly 13 per cent.

Of the above number, 183, of tonnage 28,435, entered in ballast.

There cleared during the same two years,—

Number.	1876.	1877.
Sailing vessels	423	456
Steamers	193	224
	616	680

Tonnage.	1876.	1877.
Sailing vessels - - - -	69,503	76,419
Steamers - - - - -	66,800	83,790
	136,303	160,209

The increase being 17 per cent.

Forty vessels, of 13,418 tons in the aggregate, left in ballast.

Two foreign vessels entered and cleared during 1877.

The total tonnage inwards and outwards in the two years above referred to was,—

——	1876.	1877.
Inwards - - - - -	141,181	159,308
Outwards - - - - -	136,303	160,209
	277,484	319,517

The increase being 15 per cent.

At the different ports and sub-ports the tonnage was as follows:—

——	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.
Hobart Town - -	70,914	79,480	69,917	82,827
Launceston - -	50,539	57,182	47,295	55,097
Stanley - - -	8,032	8,582	6,558	8,209
Wynyard - -	3,142	2,304	3,251	2,208
Ulverstone - -	5,287	4,208	5,648	4,221
Torquay - - -	3,267	7,552	3,634	7,647
	141,181	159,308	136,303	160,209

As to the out-ports, it will be seen that while the commerce of Stanley and Torquay increased,—at the latter more than 100 per cent.,—that of Wynyard and Ulverstone diminished.

Notwithstanding the increase in shipping entered and cleared in the year, the account of ships on the register on the last day of the year shows a decrease in the tonnage as compared with that of the year before, as follows:—

——	Number.	Tonnage.
On 31st December 1876 - - -	199	19,968
„ „ 1877 - - -	207	19,065

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During the latter year there appears to have been added to the steam fleet three screw steamers, two of wood and one of iron, with a tonnage of 237.

Of the number of vessels built and sold out of the Colony in 1877 there was a large decrease, as the following comparison will show :—

——	Number.	Tonnage.	Value.
			£
1876 - - -	10	552	12,275
1877 - - -	4	322	6,240

Whale Fisheries.

In the whale fisheries in 1877 there was one vessel less employed, and the number of vessels which entered during the year was four less. The quantity of oil brought into port was 451½ tuns of sperm, being less by 18½ tuns than in 1876.

Trades, Manufactories, &c.

The return of trades, manufactories, &c. in operation on the 31st December last, shows a decrease on the following:—Agricultural implement makers ; auctioneers (1) ; boot and shoe-makers ; bricklayers ; builders ; butchers ; candle manufacturers (1) ; carpenters ; coopers ; fellmongers ; gardeners, market; general dealers and grocers ; gunsmiths (1); hawkers ; maltsters (2); mills (horse) ; plasterers ; publicans (5); ropemakers (1); shipwrights and boat-builders ; soap-boilers (1) ; stonemasons ; tailors ; tin workers ; tobacconists (1) ; turners (1) ; wheelwrights ; woollen manufactories (1), that at Hobart Town having been burnt down ; woolstaplers and sorters.

On these there was an increase :—Bakers ; basket-makers ; blacksmiths ; bone mills (1) ; brass founders (1) ; breweries (1) ; brickmakers ; carvers and gilders ; chemists and druggists ; corn and ship-chandlers ; engineers (1); furriers ; hat and cap manufactories (1) ; ironmongers ; iron smelting works (1); jam manufactories (1) ; mills, steam, water, and hydraulic ; millwrights ; pastrycooks and confectioners ; pianoforte makers (1) ; printing offices ; saw mills ; tanners; tin smelting works (1) ; watchmakers (1) ; wine merchants.

It will be observed that the decreases in many instances fell on trades—why is not obvious. A greater amount of building was executed during the year than for many years previously ; and it might naturally have been expected that other trades would have shown a proportionate activity.

The total number of the trades, manufactories, &c. included in this return in the last two years was 3,338 in 1876, and 3,232 in 1877, being 106 fewer in the latter year ; although gasworks (2) and limekilns (12) were introduced for the first time.

Rates of Wages.

The average rate of wages throughout the Colony was higher for blacksmiths, bricklayers, butchers, carpenters, masons (cutters), plasterers, quarrymen, and tanners, but lower for the other trades. Seamen's wages were higher, as also were those of farm labourers, coachmen, grooms, gardeners, laundresses, and general servants.

A rise in the price of labour is of itself ambiguous. It may spring from a rise in the price of the necessaries of life, from the gradual depreciation of the value of money, or from demand overtaking supply; while a fall may be occasioned by the opposite conditions. In the present case we shall find these three elements—an increase in prices of some commodities owing to deficient crops, a diminution in the number of some trades, inferring a slackened demand at home, or higher wages abroad, and a deficient supply (according to the local reports) of farm labour.

Prices.

The market prices in 1877 did not differ much from those in 1876; those of grain and some other vegetable productions, in consequence of the dryness of the season, were, however, considerably higher. Thus, the price of flour, which in 1876 was returned as 12*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, in 1877 was from 13*l.* 10*s.* to 18*l.*; the maximum price of wheat rose from 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.*; of oats, from 3*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; of hay, from 4*l.* to 6*l.* per ton; sugar and tobacco were also dearer; and onions reached a maximum of 10*l.* per ton.

The contract prices of articles supplied to the Government were generally higher.

Gold Mining.

Gold mining in 1877 did not appear to be so successful as in 1876. For while the number of persons employed was as 354 to 129, the value of plant as 17,600*l.* to 14,800*l.*, the total quantity of gold obtained was only 5,777 ozs. against 11,107 in 1876. Alluvial mining produced, however, 600 ozs. against 100 ozs. in the previous year. Of quartz there were crushed in 1877 8,516 tons, yielding 5,177 ozs., against 7,830 tons and 11,007 ozs. in 1876, the average yield per ton being, in 1877, 12 dwts. 3½ grs., and in 1876 1 oz. 8 dwts. 3 grs, the claims from which such splendid results were obtained in the latter year not having maintained the same character in 1877. There is every reason to believe, however, that from both the alluvial ground and the quartz reefs at Brandy Creek the produce in the present year will be highly satisfactory. The discoveries of rich quartz reefs at the Nine Mile Springs in 1876 were quite exceptional; and the decline in the quantity of gold obtained last year does not therefore indicate any retrogression in this industry.

A return of population and dwellings at the Brandy Creek and Nine Mile Springs Gold-fields, prepared by the Commissioner, and kindly forwarded to me by the Hon. the Minister of

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Lands and Works, shows the numbers to have been towards the end of June last as follows :—

	Brandy Creek.	Nine Mile Springs.
Men - - - -	700	182
Women - - - -	70	78
Children - - - -	170	135
Total - - -	940	395
Dwellings - - - -	212	145

Including men out prospecting, the population at Brandy Creek is estimated by the Commissioner at not less than 1,000. The Commissioner further informs me that since the close of last year gold mining generally "appears to have gained ground "considerably." The remainder of his report is sufficiently interesting to be given in its entirety :—

"The most noticeable feature is the discovery of an alluvial gold-field at Brandy Creek on the west bank of the river Tamar. At this place shallow alluvial mining has been actively carried on since the middle of January; in addition to which an auriferous quartz reef has been discovered, and several auriferous leaders, indicating the proximity of reefs, have been found in various parts of the district. The rich alluvial deposit has attracted a number of miners, and when the population was counted about the end of last month there were found to be 700 men, occupying 212 houses and huts, and using six horse puddling machines besides numerous sluices and the ordinary trough and cradle.

"It has been found impossible to ascertain the quantity of gold procured, as many parties dispose of only a sufficient quantity to pay their way, and others send quantities by private hand to Melbourne. I have, however, collected sufficient information to enable me to state with confidence that not less than 25,200*l.* worth has been obtained; at the same time I have every reason to believe that that sum is far below the actual quantity procured.

"The gold has been traced into deep ground in the direction of an extensive flat, and gives every indication of increased quantity as it goes down. The quartz reef to which I have referred has all the appearance of extraordinary richness, but the battery intended to crush the stone not being yet completed, no trial has been made. I believe operations will commence in the course of a few days.

"At the Nine Mile Springs prospecting operations on a large scale, with steam appliances, have been carried on with indifferent success, or, in some cases, actual failure. The New Native Youth Mine continues to yield handsome returns, and the proprietary has since the close of last year completed and opened a magnificent battery of 40 head of stampers, an undertaking which cannot but reflect credit upon the company for their enterprise.

"At Waterhouse another attempt is being made to work the old Pioneer reef; and on another claim a trial crushing of 11 tons of stone yielded the encouraging result of upwards of 3½ ozs. to the ton.

"At the Denison steam is being employed, but with what success is not yet known. A considerable quantity of gold has been found in alluvial deposit near this place, in the direction of Mount Arthur.

"A few miners still continue to work the alluvial at Back Creek.

"In the Fingal district limited operations continue at the Black Boy, and recently the discovery of an auriferous reef in the neighbourhood of Mangana has caused some little excitement there.

"Since the opening of the year the discovery of gold has been reported to me at the following places:—neighbourhood of Pieman's River, West Coast; River Cam, North-west Coast; vicinity of Sheffield, River Mersey; Mount Cameron in the North-east district, and Port Cygnet in the south. Little has yet been done at any of these places to test the value of the discoveries, but it is worthy of notice that the existence of gold has been discovered almost simultaneously at extreme ends of the Island, and in every direction. I have every reason to believe the ensuing summer will witness more extensive prospecting operations than we have yet seen in the Colony.

"The number of Miners' Rights issued since 1st January is 1,570, and there are about 1,000 men engaged in gold-mining pursuits."

Other Mines.

In regard to mines, other than gold, there was a very large increase in 1876 as compared with the year before. This will be seen on reference to the following figures:—

	1876.	1877.
Bluestone, tons	400	850 cubic yards.
Flagstone, cubic feet	2,000	27,166
Freestone, cubic feet	30,600	26,044
„ tons	732	2,230
Coal, tons	6,100	9,470
Lime, bushels	14,600	40,902
Limestone, tons	6,036	2,056
Iron ore, tons	3,700	6,050
Tin ore, tons	1,087*	2,989
Slates, No.	200,000	500,000

The quantity of smelted tin produced in 1877 has been ascertained from the managers of the works, who have been good enough to furnish the information at my request, to have been 2,277 tons. I have not the means of knowing what it was

* Mount Bischoff only. The quantity obtained in other districts could not be ascertained.

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in 1876. The export of the manufactured metal was 2,221 tons in 1877, against 1,072 in 1876; and of the ore, 3,526 tons, against 544. The proportion of metal to ore smelted at Hobart Town last year averaged slighly over 74 per cent.; that smelted at Launceston, 69·57 per cent. The discoveries of tin on the western side of the Island, and especially in the neighbourhood of Mount Heemskirk, which have lately been made, if they do not disappoint present expectations, will not only largely augment the mineral wealth of the Colony, but, what is scarcely, if at all, less important, must carry settlement into a part of the country which has hitherto remained almost unknown.

Accounts of discoveries of copper have been published from time to time, and two companies for the purpose of working certain deposits of that metal have been formed or projected. The ore from Badger Head is stated, on good authority, to yield as much as 30 per cent. of metal, and the company is now, as I understand, in active operation; but as to the other company I have no information beyond that supplied by the prospectus.

The mineral products of this Colony, which some years since were not of sufficient importance to be noticed in its statistics, have now become second in point of value, wool being still the first. Excluding iron, ore and pig, valued at 20,540*l.*, since the production has for the present ceased, the value of wool and mineral products in 1877, as measured by the exports, was as follows:—

	£	£
Wool - - - - -		522,885
Mineral products—		
Tin - - -	296,941	
Gold - - -	26,904	
Lime - - -	1,917	
Stone - - -	2,063	
Slates - - -	2,742	
		340,567

In my report for 1874 I referred to the discovery of a lode of bismuth. From that time to the present but little information on the subject has been given to the public; but some particulars have now appeared in the newspapers of sufficient importance to be noticed here, showing as they do that besides the sources of mineral wealth already partially developed, there are others of quite as great promise only waiting to be opened. The lode, which is in the vicinity of Mount Ramsay, is stated to be in one part three chains wide, and to have been traced for a considerable distance. It appears that in 1876 Mr. Ulrich, the known geologist of Victoria, after a special examination, spoke of the discovery as "representing to my knowledge one of, if not the richest and "most important made of this rare metal in recent times." The arsenical and iron pyrites which were found plentifully distributed among the bismuth ore yielded, we are told, on two assays, from 3 ozs. 5 dwts. 8 grs. to 3 ozs. 18 dwts. 9 grs. of gold per ton; and the copper pyrites, of which the quantity is smaller, gave on

one assay 2 ozs. 12 dwts. 6 grs. of gold, slightly impregnated with silver, per ton. The only obstacle to the working of the mine is reported to be the want of a road, of about 14 miles, to the Van Diemen's Land Company's tramway, though the expense of constructing the road, and all other necessary works, is, in Mr. Ulrich's opinion, fully warranted by the high value of the metalliferous rocks containing the bismuth.

On the Waratah Tin Mining Company's claim at Mount Bischoff antimony has been discovered, a sample of which being assayed was found to consist of antimony, 28·8 per cent.; lead, 24·0 per cent.; copper, 4·8 per cent.; silver, 7 ozs. 9 dwts. 8 grs. per ton of ore; the remainder being composed of sulphuret of iron.

IV.—FINANCE, &c.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year (including 5,000*l.* estimated as the amount outstanding) was 361,771*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, being 34,754*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* in excess of that of 1876. The Customs produced (omitting fractions of a pound) 201,966*l.*; the Post Office, 22,500*l.*; probate duty, 5,171*l.*; sales of Crown lands, 28,550*l.*; rent of Crown lands, 15,774*l.*

The increases on the regular sources of revenue (omitting fractions as before) were as follows:—

	£
Customs - - - -	16,929
Post Office - - - -	2,792
Telegraphs - - - -	704
Probate duty - - -	3,002
Sales of Crown lands - -	7,148
Rent of ditto - - -	3,501

Compared with what it was 10 years since the Customs revenue shows an increase of 69,807*l.*, or nearly 53 per cent.; and as between 1877 and 1876 the increase was nearly 19 per cent.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure (including estimate of 7,500*l.* for outstanding liabilities) for 1877 was 352,563*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, being 10,674*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* in excess of that of 1876. It is worthy of mention that, while the expenditure increased by only 3 per cent., the increase of revenue amounted to nearly 11 per cent. The amount of interest on loans paid in 1877 was less than in 1876.

The cost of charitable institutions appears as 50,973*l.*, against 44,049*l.* in 1876, and that of gaols and penal establishments as 13,616*l.* against 19,050*l.* These differences are explained by the fact that in the early part of the year the penal, pauper, and lunatic establishments at Port Arthur were broken up, and the inmates transferred to Hobart Town. It having been the practice to charge the total cost of the station at Port Arthur, including

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paupers and lunatics not under punishment, to the head of gaols and penal establishments, but since the removal of the inmates to Hobart Town separate votes having been taken for each class, and the expenditure on their account more accurately shown,—the effect has, of course, been to increase the expenditure for charitable purposes, and diminish that for gaols, &c.

Public Debt.

The amount of the public debt on 31st December 1877 was 1,589,705*l.*, being at the rate of 14*l.* 16*s.* 7¾*d.* per head of the mean population. It was increased by the issue of debentures to the amount of 20,800*l.* for public works, and of Treasury bills on the last day of the year for 48,405*l.* to meet charges upon the revenue during the current year. The charge for interest during the year was 86,175*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

General and Local Revenue, &c.

The revenue and expenditure of the general Government in 1877 have been mentioned before. Those of the various local bodies were as follows:—

	£
Revenue - - - -	112,173
Expenditure - - -	109,690

Taxation.

The rate per head paid by the population to the general Government by way of taxation was 2*l.* 4*s.* 6½*d.*, and to the local bodies 14*s.* 0¼*d.*, making together 2*l.* 18*s.* 6¾*d.* Comparing the rate in the previous year, we find an increase of 3*s.* 2*d.* per head on the general, and of 4¾*d.* on the local taxation. No additional burdens were imposed for general purposes in 1877; the excess therefore was chiefly the result of increased consumption and business.

Imperial Expenditure.

The Imperial expenditure amounted to 17,258*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, against 15,412*l.* 12*s.* in 1876, the increase being for "army services."

The rates of bank exchange on London in the two last years were these:—

—	1876.	1877.
For buying, per cent. discount - -	½ to ¼	¼ to par.
For selling, per cent. premium - -	⅝ to ⅞	⅝ to 1¼

Exchange.

The exchange with the other Australasian Colonies, and the rates of bank interest and discount, were the same as in 1876.

Banks.

The business of the banks continued to increase in 1877. The assets and liabilities in the last quarter of the last two years are compared below:—

—	1876.	1877.
ASSETS.	£	£
Specie and bullion - - - -	256,499	305,904
Debts due to banks - - - -	1,357,198	1,516,176
Landed property and balances due from other banks.	68,126	74,614
	1,681,823	1,896,694
LIABILITIES.		
Notes and bills in circulation - -	120,254	132,223
Deposits - - - - -	1,463,008	1,726,630
Balances due other banks - - -	2,582	4,157
	1,585,844	1,863,010

The increase on the total of assets amounted to 12·78 per cent.; on that of liabilities, to 47·31 per cent. In the previous year the increment on assets was 8·74 per cent.; on liabilities, 14·03 per cent.

Savings Banks.

The total assets of the savings banks on 28th February in the current and previous years were—

	£
1877 - - - -	333,335
1878 - - - -	344,608
Increase - -	11,273

The amount of deposits at the same date was—

	£
1877 - - - -	302,273
1878 - - - -	311,441
Increase - -	9,168

The amounts received from and repaid to depositors during the two years were—

—	Deposits.	Repayments.
	£	£
1876–7 - - - - -	177,679	164,630
1877–8 - - - - -	187,542	178,374
Increase - - - -	9,863	13,744

The excess of deposits over repayments in the two years was—

	£
1876–7 - - - -	13,049
1877–8 - - - -	9,168

The following was the number of accounts, not including such as consisted of interest only, open on the last day of February in 1877 and 1878 :—

	1877.	1878.
With balances above 100*l.* - - -	939	949
With balances from 50*l.* to 100*l.* - -	1,086	1,166
With balances from 10*l.* to 50*l.* - -	3,023	3,060
With balances Under 10*l.* - - -	6,466	7,086
	11,514	12,261

The number opened and closed during the two last years ending in February was—

	1876–7.	1877–8.
Opened - - - - -	2,212	2,423
Closed - - - - -	1,906	1,645
Excess of "opened" over "closed" -	306	778

The average amount to the credit of each account at the end of February in 1878 was 25*l.* 8*s.*; in 1877, 26*l.* 5*s.*

Money Orders.

The business of the money order branch of the Post Office in the last two years is shown below :—

Years.	Orders issued.		Orders paid.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1877 - -	13,068	47,274	8,544	30,577
1876 - -	8,851	32,427	6,953	25,559
Increase -	4,217	14,847	1,591	5,018

Taking together the orders issued and paid, the increase on the number amounted to 37·38, and on the amount 34·26 per cent

The increase occurred principally within the Colony itself, and between Tasmania and Victoria.

Increase on amount of orders—

—	Issued.	Paid.
	£	£
Tasmanian - - - -	4,379	4,363
Victoria - - - -	9,154	345
	13,533	4,708

V.—ESTABLISHMENTS, &c. MAINTAINED OR ASSISTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Post Office.

The number of letters, &c. which passed through the post offices in 1877 was as follows:—

—	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.
Inland - - -	1,472,171	50,896	1,081,282
Ship { Received - -	332,660	39,533	296,478
Ship { Despatched -	287,251	8,700	241,762
Total - -	2,092,082	99,129	1,619,522

The increases in 1877 and 1876, as compared with the year immediately preceding, were—

—	Inland.	Ship received.	Ship despatched.
On letters - { 1877 -	114,849	38,426	29,224
On letters - { 1876 -	167,242	31,766	15,319
On packets - { 1877 -	2,239	6,955	1,222
On packets - { 1876 -	11,842	3,943	930
On newspapers { 1877 -	131,069	32,248	3,691
On newspapers { 1876 -	77,643	14,339	9,092

The revenue of the Post Office in 1877 is estimated to have been 16,000*l.*, or 1,550*l.* greater than in the year before; while the expenditure was 24,082*l.* 15*s.*, or 2,732*l.* 17*s.* greater.

During the year there was an increase in the number of post offices of three; in the employés of the department, of 84; in the extent of post roads, of 101 miles; and in the total number of miles travelled by mail conveyance, of 19,185.

Electric Telegraph.

During the year 1877 the benefits of telegraphic communication were further extended, six new stations having been esta-

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blished, increasing the number of persons employed by 10, the number of miles of line by 337, and the number of miles of single wire by 370. The increase on the number of messages was as under:—

Within Tasmania - - -	13,878
Between Tasmania and other countries -	31

The absolute number of messages under these classes was 67,355 and 12,644 respectively; the revenue 3,610*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, or 567*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* in excess of that of 1876; the expenditure 5,364*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, or 1,478*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* in excess.

Launceston and Western Railway.

The passenger traffic on the Launceston and Western Railway was somewhat smaller than in 1876, the number being 102,959, against 103,017. Each passenger, however, travelled further, thus increasing the receipts from 9,838*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* to 9,899*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*

The average number conveyed by each train was greater, the average receipts per passenger rather less; average per week 190*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, against 189*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* In the tonnage of goods carried there was also a decrease from 20,630 to 18,516, or about 12 per cent.; in the receipts, from 6,478*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* to 6,285*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; in the average receipts per week, from 124*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* to 120*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The traffic as far as Evandale is, of course, unfavourably affected by the competition of the Main Line; and much of the decrease, if not the whole, must be referred to this cause.

The total receipts from all sources (excluding only the amount to be paid by the Main Line Railway Company for the running of their trains over a portion of the railway, as not having yet been fixed) were 18,349*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; the working expenses having been—ordinary, 16,547*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; extraordinary, 1,556*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*; total, 18,103*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* Compared with the previous year the total receipts, as just mentioned, were 66*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* less, the ordinary expenditure 1,109*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, the extraordinary 1,211*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, more. A sum of 1,795*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* was also expended on account of construction, but was not chargeable to working expenses. When the amount to be paid by the Main Line Railway Company for the use of the Government line between Launceston and Evandale is agreed upon, and becomes part of the revenue of the latter, there will be a considerable surplus beyond the cost of working.

Lighthouses.

The lighthouse revenue, under the control of the Hobart Town Marine Board, amounted to 5,792*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure to 5,414*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* (of which 446*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* was for repairs), there being an increase of revenue of 1,486*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, and of expendi ture of 516*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

Salmon Breeding Establishment.

The Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment cost 290*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, against 201*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* in 1876. It nearly paid its own expenses, however, 203*l.* 15*s.* having been received during the year for fishing licenses and sale of ova.

The following statement shows the number of ova and fry distributed by the Salmon Commissioners in 1877 :—

RETURN of the DISTRIBUTION of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during the year 1877.

OVA.		FRY.	
Salmon Trout—		Brown Trout—	
Victoria	500	Rivers Meander and Liffey	300
Launceston	500	River Mersey	500
		Coal River	250
		White Kangaroo River	250
		Creekton Rivulet, Port Esperance	200
Brown Trout—		Russell River	500
Victoria	6,500	Sorell District	750
New South Wales	3,000	Macquarie River	320
Total	10,500	Total	3,070

Establishments maintained by Government.

The daily average number of persons maintained in the establishments* under the direct control of Government in the last two years (omitting fractions) was :—

	1876.	1877.
CHARITABLE.		
General hospitals	159	164
Pauper establishments	854	839
Queen's Asylum for destitute children	157	128
	1,170	1,131
INSANE.		
Hospitals for insane	315	303
PENAL.		
Gaols and training schools for boys (Reformatory)	408	338

It is satisfactory to observe that, with the exception of the general hospitals, the number was smaller in all these establishments. The increase at the hospitals is easily accounted for by the high rate of mortality, as will be seen when we come to the subject of "Vital Statistics."

* Port Arthur is omitted, complete returns for the year not being procurable.

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The mortality in these establishments relatively to the daily average, with the average age of inmates (excluding the general hospitals, for obvious reasons), in 1877 is shown below :—

Establishments.	Average Age.	Mortality per Cent.
CHARITABLE.		
Brickfields	69½	19·27
Cascades	65	19·36
New Town (females)	63	17·03
Launceston	67¼	20·00
Queen's Asylum	11¾	0·78
INSANE.		
New Norfolk	47 & 14*	11·02
Cascades (from April)	57	3·95
PENAL.		
Gaol for males, Hobart Town	45	1·69
Gaol for females, Hobart Town	40 & 4½†	2·32
Gaol, Launceston (both sexes)	39½ & 3½†	5·54

It will be seen that the mortality at Launceston compares unfavourably with that of the brickfields and the gaol at Hobart Town. In the latter case the difference, especially when due regard is had to age, is very great, the rate being more than three times as high. This exceptional death-rate was not caused by overcrowding as compared with the other establishments, the space available for each inmate being—

At the pauper establishment, Launceston 497 cubic feet.
At the gaol, Launceston - - 894 „
At the brickfields, Hobart Town - 481 „

In regard to age, at the general hospital, the largest number of patients were between 15 and 25; then follow in a diminishing series those between 55 and 65 ; 45 and 55 ; and 65 and upwards. The insane ranked in the following order :—1st, between 45 and 55 ; 2nd, between 55 and 65 ; 3rd, between 35 and 45 ; 4th, 65 and upwards. Of the paupers, none were under 15 ; the overwhelming majority being of and over 65. In the gaols, 19 were under 10 ; 77 between 10 and 15 ; 364 between 15 and 25 ; 176 between 25 and 35; 330 between 35 and 45; 447 between 45 and 55 ; 318 between 55 and 65 ; and 170 of 65 and upwards.

The degrees of education are shown below :—

—	Pauper Establishments.	Training Schools.	Gaols, &c.
Unable to read	705	2	646
Able to read only	330	37	315
Able to read and write	616	102	935
Of superior education	11	19	5

* Adults and children respectively. † Children with their mothers.

The gross expenditure of all these establishments, with the cost per head on the gross and net expenditure in the two last years, were as follows:—

		Gross Expenditure.	Cost per Head— On Gross Expenditure.	Cost per Head— On Net Expenditure.
		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General hospitals	1876	8,716	54 14 11¼	49 11 0¼
	1877	10,046	61 7 1¼	57 2 0
Hospitals for insane	1876	9,522	30 4 0¾	25 12 7¾
	1877	10,236	33 18 2¼	28 5 7
Pauper establishments	1876	12,900	15 2 1¼	14 14 1¾
	1877	12,142	14 9 4¾	13 14 7
Queen's Asylum	1876	2,698	17 5 3¼	16 18 7½
	1877	2,569	20 2 1½	19 3 5¼
Training school	1876	432	28 4 2¾	19 16 8¾
	1877	329	32 18 7¼	23 12 1¼
Penal establishments	1876	13,949	34 4 2¾	25 9 8¼
	1877	10,540	31 3 2¼	22 14 0
Total	1876	48,217		
	1877	45,862		

Establishments assisted by Government.

The charitable or industrial establishments assisted by Government were the hospital, Campbell Town, the boys' home, Hobart Town, the girls' industrial school, the ragged schools, and the benevolent societies at Hobart Town and Launceston. As regards numbers, I need speak only of the last. In the permanent class the adult cases were the same as in the year before; while the children decreased from 128 to 78. In the occasional class the adults increased from 283 to 380; while the children decreased from 362 to 356. The increase occurred entirely at Hobart Town.

Out-door Relief.

The amount disbursed by the Treasury for charitable relief in 1877 was 9,455*l.* 12*s.*, being an increase on the foregoing year of 863*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* For the boarding out of destitute children there was paid 1,932*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, against 1,754*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* in 1876. It is a strange anomaly that simultaneously with an increase in the general prosperity of the Colony there should be found also an increase of its pauperism. On this subject there are some valuable observations in the Report of the Inspector of Public Charities of New South Wales dated 1st March last, from which I make the following extracts, as being more or less applicable to our own system:—

"The influence of most of our charitable institutions is, to my mind, calculated to foster or encourage a pauperising spirit to an extent which even tends to the corrupting of the industrious and frugal portion of the community.

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"In making this remark, I do not for a moment undervalue the necessity for these institutions, or the benevolence which has called them forth, nor do I wish to see them administered in a niggardly spirit, which would be a discredit to the Government, nor do I forget that in a new country, where the population is so nomadic, and where the risk of accidental incapacity is greater than in older and more settled countries, there naturally falls to be a larger proportion of workers liable to become helpless and thus burdensome to the State; but these institutions should not be regarded beforehand as secure and attractive havens for the sensual and improvident who have earned no right to such provision; nor should they be made means by which persons who wish to avoid parental obligations or the claims of consanguinity can shift their burdens on to the shoulders of the public.

"As regards the former abuse, some degree of work (however light it may be in character) should be apportioned to each inmate when practicable, for the double purpose of preventing idleness and of instilling a feeling that he is doing something towards self-maintenance; while as regards the latter, prompt search after and punishment of all who desert those legally dependent on them should be made the rule. * * * *

"To intemperance, self-indulgence, and self-neglect may in large measure be traced the sources whence flow the streams of our pauperism. To lessen the supply at its higher level—that is, before it enters actually the charities area—improvement is necessary in our licensing regulations; also more stringent legislation, with a view to abolishing the unwholesome tenements, backyards, and filthy lanes where our lowest classes shelter, and where, poisoned by the foul atmosphere around, they are almost driven to seek a temporary relief in stimulants, and thus acquire habits which result in pauperism."

The following recommendation by the same officer is worthy of attention:—

"Joint action should be entered upon with the neighbouring Colonies, by which warrants for desertion or evasion of orders by our courts could be made to reach defaulters beyond our own borders. Offences of this character are numerous, and frequently deliberately planned."

Probably none of these Colonies has suffered so much from this cause as our own.

Road Trusts.

In the year ending February 28, 1878, there were 69 road trusts (1 more than in the previous year), having 3,760 miles of roads under their control. Their combined receipts (including balances) were 32,891*l.*, and their expenditure 30,166*l.*

Municipalities.

The 21 municipalities had a gross revenue of 81,146*l.*, and an expenditure of 82,438*l.*

Valuation of Property.

The total value of property in Tasmania in 1877, as shown by the valuation rolls, was 636,391*l.*, of which Hobart Town and Launceston furnished 174,679*l.*; the 19 rural municipalities 340,688*l.*, and the 9 police districts 121,024*l.* It is observable, that while the value in the chief towns was placed at 4,574*l.* more, in the rural municipalities it was assessed at 15,370*l.* less, and in the police districts at a trifle under, the reduction on the whole being 10,931*l.*

VI.—CROWN LANDS, AGRICULTURE, &c.

Lands Sold.

In the past year the demand for Crown lands was considerably greater than it was in 1876, as will be seen from the table which follows :—

Years.	Number of Lots.			Area of Land Sold.			Amount for which Sold.			Average Price per Acre.	
	Country.	Town and Suburban.	Total.	Country.	Town and Suburban.	Total.	Country Lots.	Town and Suburban Lots.	Total.	Of Country Lots.	Of Town and Suburban Lots.
				acres.	acres.	acres.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	311	136	447	25,973	594	26,567	33,861	2,629	36,490	1 6 1	4 8 6
1877	423	335	758	38,464	1,058	39,522	50,692	8,643	59,335	1 6 4½	8 3 4½

The increases per cent. were—

Amount.			Area.		
Country.	Town, &c.	Total.	Country.	Town, &c.	Total.
49·71	228·75	62·61	48·09	78·11	48·76

It will be seen that, notwithstanding the tendency of pastoral pursuits to take the place of other industries, the chief increases were on town and suburban lands; the average price fetched by the latter having also been nearly double that of 1876.

Lands leased.

In the lands under lease there were also large increases. The area of islands rented was 752,880 acres, or 240,560 more than in 1876. It should, however, be stated that in the latter year it was smaller than it had ever been before. On the mainland the area under lease was 1,001,398 acres, or 223,383 more than in 1876. The quantity of this description of land has not been so large since 1866, when it was 1,369,771 acres. The total amount of

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the rental in 1877 is returned as 7,063*l.* (in round numbers), being 301*l.* more than in the previous year. That of the islands appears as 671*l.*, against 398*l.* in 1876; that of ordinary lands as 6,392*l.*, against 6,364*l.* The rate at which the ordinary lands were rented per 100 acres in the following years is found, from the returns rendered by the Lands Department, to have been as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1869 - - - -	1	0	6¼
1871 - - - -	0	18	2¼
1873 - - - -	0	12	10¼
1875 - - - -	1	0	2¾
1876 - - - -	0	16	4¼
1877 - - - -	0	12	9¼

The quantity of Crown land leased during the past year is returned as 355,322 acres, the rental being 1,125*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, against 142,785 acres in 1876, at a rental of 1,058*l.* 16*s.*

Lands alienated and unalienated.

Up to the end of 1877 there had been alienated 4,091,651 acres, leaving 12,686,349 acres as the property of the State.

Lands granted.

During the year 1877 there were granted to individuals under immigration certificates 314 acres, against 440 acres in 1876.

Gold Leases, &c.

The returns relating to gold mining have, with the advice of the Commissioner, been thrown into a form somewhat different from those hitherto in use. The number of gold leases applied for and executed in the last two years, and of those in force at the end of the same years, was—

		1876.	1877.
Applied for - -	Number - -	75	112
	Area, acres -	750	1,223
Executed - -	Number - -	—	53
	Area, acres -	—	516¾
In force at end of year	Number - -	9	62
	Area, acres -	146	663

The following were the numbers of business licenses and miners' rights applied for and registered in 1877, and in force at its termination:—

Business areas - - -	7
Ordinary mining claims - -	105
Machinery sites - - -	2
Water rights - - - -	2
Pospectors' rareas - - -	10

The number of business licenses and miners' rights issued in 1876 and 1877 was—

——	1876.	1877.
Business licenses - - -	9	26
Miners' rights - - -	529	2,184

The amount of revenue received from the gold-fields in those years was—

	£	s.	d.
In 1876 - - -	1,359	10	2
In 1877 - - -	3,143	8	2

A glance at these figures will show that in the latter year there was a marked increase of activity in gold mining.

Mineral Leases.

For minerals other than gold 201 leases, with an area of 12,798 acres, at a rental of 3,255*l.* were granted in 1877, the area differing but little from that of 1876. The number of leases in force, with their total area and rental in the two years, was as under:—

——	1876.	1877.
Number of leases - - -	303	504
Area, acres - - -	22,046	34,906
Rental - - - -	£5,426	£8,681

Agriculture.

It has been frequently remarked that the tendency in this Colony of late years has been to give up farming in favour of stock keeping. It need not surprise us, therefore, that the area of land in crop has been diminishing, the figures for the last three years being 142,547, 127,282, and 131,013 acres respectively. It was certainly greater in the last year than in the preceding, but with that exception it was smaller than in any other year of the decennial period. The acreage of the principal crops for those years was—

——	1875–6.	1876–7.	1877–8.
Wheat - - -	42,745	38,977	46,719
Barley - - -	5,939	6,258	4,283
Oats - - -	32,556	23,609	21,883
Potatoes - - -	6,906	7,954	8,336
Hay - - -	34,758	29,664	29,440

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Throwing together "permanent artificial grasses" and "all other cultivated land" (much of which probably consists of grass land), we find an increase of 8,603 acres as between 1877–8 and 1876–7, and of 77,667 acres, or 68 per cent., as between the last and first years of the decennium.

It is somewhat singular that in the United Kingdom there is the same tendency to prefer stock-rearing to agriculture. Thus the acreage under wheat in 1876 was 11 per cent. less than in 1875, and 22 per cent. less than in 1869. "In Great Britain "alone the decrease from 1875 was 10 per cent., and from 1869, "19 per cent."* The chief causes assigned for this tendency are the scarcity of labour and the high price of meat. The scarcity or indifferent quality of labour is one of the principal difficulties experienced by the Tasmanian farmer; and the second cause operates here also, although not in so great a degree as in the United Kingdom.

Hops occupied 15 acres more than in the previous year, green forage 248 more, legumes 1,375 less, root crops (turnips, carrots, mangel wurzel, and onions) 978 more.

The average yield of all crops, except turnips, carrots, mangel wurzel, and grass seed, was deficient in the last season in consequence of the want of rain in many parts of the Colony.

Comparing the averages in the first and last half of the past 10 years, we find an increase as regards all the principal crops except potatoes. The yield per acre is shown below :—

	First Quinquennium.	Second Quinquennium.
Wheat, bushels - - -	15·57	17·69
Barley, bushels - - -	20·17	23·10
Oats, bushels - - -	22·74	23·88
Potatoes, tons - - -	3·49	3·34
Hay, tons - - - -	1·13	1·24
Hops, lbs. - - - -	1,024	1,313

If, therefore, less ground has been cropped, it has at least been better cultivated, and the use of machinery in farming operations seems to be more appreciated, the acreage of wheat reaped by machine in the past year having been returned at 20,000, against 6,496 in 1876–7, or more than three times as much.

On referring to the agricultural returns of Victoria and Queensland for the past year (the only ones which have been received to the present time), I find that the area in wheat and hay in the former Colony was considerably in excess of that of the previous year, while that in oats and potatoes was under. The average yield of wheat was 12½ bushels to the acre, the smallest in the 10 years, except in 1871; that of oats, potatoes, and hay, about the ordinary quantity. In Queensland the Registrar-General states that there was an increase of 3,514 acres in the quantity of land

* Agricultural Returns of Great Britain or 1875, p. 8, and for 1876, p. 5.

sown with wheat during the year. The area reaped for grain also shows an increase of 2,220 acres as compared with that of the year 1876; but the yield of grain has fallen short of that of the previous year by 7,870 bushels. The decrease is, no doubt, chiefly attributable to the severe drought which was experinceed throughout the country during several months of the year, causing in some instances a total failure of the crop. It will be seen that the yield of grain unaffected by rust in 1877 was only 12 bushels 40⅓ lbs. per acre, as against 20 bushels 28 lbs. in 1876. The average yield of wheat grain free from rust in the eight years from 1870 to 1877 inclusive is a little under 20 bushels to the acre.

Publication of Returns.

The returns relating to agriculture and live stock were published last year in the *Gazette* of June 12, but this year they have been delayed nearly a month later, and the reason of such delay may very naturally be demanded. It was this: at the end of last year a new police district, called Portland, was created; and at the usual time, about the middle of February, the forms for the collection of the required information were forwarded from my office to the inspector of police, in accordance with the present practice in regard to the police districts, for transmission to the district constable. Not having received the returns in May last, the inspector, at my request, communicated with him on the subject, when it was discovered, from his reply, that the forms had never reached him. I then made inquiries at the Post Office, but without avail. How or where the package miscarried could not be explained. Thus the work in that district had to be commenced when it ought to have been finished.

Some explanation seems here to be called for as to the estimate of surplus of bread stuffs annually published in the *Gazette*. In the year 1869 an account was taken of the quantity then on hand, as a starting point, and the surplus, after deducting the consumption, at the rate of 6 bushels per head, the estimated requirements for seed, at the rate of 2 bushels per acre, and the balance of exports (if any) over imports, has been carried forward from year to year. The actual balance of exports has been considerable up to the year 1876; but in that year it was only equal to 63,294 bushels of wheat, and in 1877 only to 62,379 bushels; and since the harvests of those years were short, in consequence of less land having been cropped with wheat, the stock in hand at the end of 1877 may be assumed to have been very insignificant, and we may therefore ascertain pretty accurately what the consumption, for other purposes than sowing, has been in the intervening period. According to the most careful calculation I can make, it amounts to 6·184 bushels of wheat per head of the mean population for the period 1869–77, assuming that at the end of the last year the surplus stock had been cleared out.

The surplus for export having been over estimated, I considered it advisable, when publishing the last statement, to omit

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all mention of the remains from the previous year, and propose to pursue the same course on future occasions, leaving it to those who are interested in the trade to make their own estimate of the stocks on hand.

Prices.

The mean prices of all agricultural produce, including fruit, as returned by the collectors in the last season, were higher than those of the previous year, with three exceptions, tares, turnips, and hops. Below are shown the mean prices of the principal articles for three years :—

——	1875–6.	1876–7.	1877–8.
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Wheat, per bushel -	4 $6\frac{1}{4}$	5 $6\frac{1}{2}$	5 $8\frac{1}{4}$
Barley, ditto - -	4 4	4 $0\frac{3}{4}$	4 $8\frac{3}{4}$
Oats, ditto - -	2 $4\frac{1}{2}$	2 7	3 7
Potatoes, per ton -	70 9	82 $11\frac{1}{2}$	90 $0\frac{3}{4}$
Hay, ditto - -	76 5	65 $11\frac{1}{2}$	101 $7\frac{1}{4}$
Hops, per lb - -	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	1 $3\frac{3}{4}$
Apples, per bushel -	3 $11\frac{1}{4}$	4 $3\frac{1}{2}$	4 $11\frac{3}{4}$
Pears, ditto - -	3 $9\frac{1}{4}$	3 11	4 9

Agricultural Machines.

Notwithstanding the falling off in the area in crop, the use of machinery for farming purposes has been largely increasing. I take some of the principal machines and implements for comparison, as between the first and last years of the last decennium :—

——	1868–9.	1877–8.
Cultivators - - - - -	55	138
Hay elevators { horse - - -	12	16
Hay elevators { steam - - -	5	4
Horse hoes, &c - - - -	281	515
Mowing machines - - - -	30	64
Ploughs, subsoil - - - -	*	123
Ditto, double-furrow - - -	—	98
Reaping machines - - - -	59	135
Reaping and mowing ditto combined -	—	106
Threshing machines { horse - -	211	168
Threshing machines { steam - -	44	62

The diminution in the number of threshing machines driven by horses may probably be partly accounted for by the increased use of steam; a steam machine being able to do much more work than one driven by horses.

From the reports of the collectors of Agricultural Statistics we find that in several districts the crops were injured by the severe spring and summer frosts, and in others by the want of rain; while in some the weather is reported to have been favourable, both as regards the quantity and quality of produce. The advantages of

* Not returned.

fallowing and artificial manures are becoming better appreciated; the use of machinery, such as steam threshing machines, reapers and binders, double and triple-furrow ploughs, is extending. I am pleased to find it stated that in the Westbury district "there "is a good deal of underground drainage carried on; also open "drains, some 13 feet by 5 feet deep. In every instance where "drainage is carried on the land can carry double the complement "of stock."

The establishment at Launceston of a factory for making jam and desiccating fruit has had a beneficial influence on the production of soft fruits in the neighbourhood, and on the price, which is said to have increased in consequence by from 25 to 50 per cent. The V. D. L. Company's Tramway has improved the position of the agriculturists in the Emu Bay District.

The prospects of the hop-growers of New Norfolk are, however, described as "very gloomy" at present, and it is considered not improbable that unless the price improves the area under hops may be considerably reduced in the next season.

Live Stock.

The number of live stock returned at the end of March last was as follows:—Horses, 22,195; horned cattle, 126,882; sheep (not including those in the Straits, estimated at 13,153), 1,818,125; goats, 2,021; mules, 10; asses, 12; and pigs, 55,652.

In horses there was a decrease of 1,427, the number of horses being less than in 1869. In horned cattle there was an increase of 2,423; in sheep an increase of 62,983. Sheep have been steadily on the increase from 1873, and more especially from 1875. Goats and pigs diminished in number—goats as compared with the whole decennium, pigs as regards the year 1876–7. There appears to be a general improvement going on in the breed of stock.

In regard to sheep, we notice that the practice of washing in warm water is now rapidly growing into disuse, being superseded by that of shearing in the grease, as will be seen from the following figures:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Number of sheepowners using warm water - - -	20	48	32	17	8
Number of sheepowners shearing in grease - - -	308	480	372	412	574

Sheep and Cattle slaughtered and imported.

The number of sheep and cattle imported (as taken from the Customs returns) and of those slaughtered in Hobart Town and Launceston in the four years last past was as follows:—

	Cattle.			Sheep.	
——	Imported.	Slaughtered.	——	Imported.	Slaughtered.
1874 -	790	8,230	1874 -	20,988	67,329
1875 -	1,211	7,783	1875 -	22,971	72,089
1876 -	805	8,168	1876 -	12,054	77,648
1877 -	904	7,940	1877 -	8,385	79,848

VII.—LAW, CRIME, &c.

Commitments.

The commitments in 1877 were 93, being 1 less than in 1876. The number for the last three years was—1875, 108; 1876, 94; 1877, 93, showing a continuous decrease, notwithstanding the increase of population. Of those in 1877, 78 were males, 15 females; 49 had previously been always free, 40 were free by servitude, 2 were holding conditional pardons, and 2 were still undergoing their sentences.

Cases in Superior Courts.

In the superior courts 86 were dealt with, against 75 in the previous year. Judgment for the Crown was given in 49 cases, and for the prisoner in 25; 9 were remanded; and 3 fell through for want of prosecution.

The nature of the crimes (including attempts to commit them) in the last three years is classified thus:—

——	1875.	1876.	1877.
Murder - - - - -	2	3	3
Manslaughter - - - -	—	1	3
Concealment of birth and abortion -	2	1	—
Rape, and similar assaults on females -	6	4	5
Unnatural crimes - - -	6	—	—
Indecent assaults on males - -	4	—	1
All other offences against the person -	15	17	8
Robbery with violence - - -	—	1	3
Other offences against property -	37	43	52
Miscellaneous offences - - -	14	5	11
	86	75	86

There was, therefore, an increase in crimes of a homicidal tendency, in robbery with violence, and in other offences against property; but as regards the remaining classes, there was on the whole a decrease.

The felonies in 1877 were 67, being 23 more than in 1876; the misdemeanors 7, being 20 less.

The number of persons tried was 74, or three more than in 1876; the offences against the person being six fewer, those against property three more, than in that year.

Executions.

One criminal convicted of murder was executed during the year.

Cases in Inferior Courts.

In the inferior courts 7,619 cases were dealt with, resulting in 5,082 convictions, not including cases such as those of non-payment of rates, &c., which resulted only in orders for the payment of money. In the former there was a decrease, as regards the previous year, of 1,588, and in the latter, of 485. The convictions, though fewer than in 1876, were considerably more numerous than in any of the other years since they were first recorded in the present form, namely, in 1871.

The convictions were in the proportion of 66·71 per cent. of the persons dealt with.

Of the number convicted in 1877, 2,517 were fined; 1,455 were imprisoned in default of fine or surety; 855 were imprisoned absolutely; 88 were bound over with or without sureties; in 1,045 cases orders were made for payment of moneys other than fines; and 102 were not punished.

Offences not prosecuted.

The offences reported but not prosecuted were 494 in 1877, against 482 in 1876. Adding these to the number dealt with by the courts, the total amount of known criminality in those years was—

——	1876.	1877.
Dealt with by superior courts - -	75	86
Ditto by inferior courts - -	9,207	7,619
Reported, but not prosecuted - -	482	494
	9,764	8,199

The result being considerably in favour of the latter year.

Litigation.

The civil business of the Supreme Court, in its ordinary jurisdiction, was greater in 1877 than in 1876, as the following comparison will show :—

——	1876.	1877.
Writs of summons issued - -	219	330
Causes entered for trial - - -	10	19
Causes tried - - - -	7	11
Amount awarded by jury - -	£486	£2,184

In its Small Debts Act jurisdiction the case was reversed, the summonses issued being 79 in 1877 against 84, and the cases tried 51 against 53.

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The business of the courts of requests was also greater in 1877, the number of summonses issued being respectively 2,540 and 2,261; the cases tried 1,467 and 1,304; the number of verdicts for the plaintiff, 1,347 and 1,177; and of writs of *fi fa*, 466 and 413. The verdicts for the defendant were, however, 120 in 1877 against 127 in 1876; and the amount awarded by juries 6,095*l.* against 7,794*l.* in the previous year.

Divorce.

The matrimonial relations of the people of Tasmania seem to have been not quite so happy in 1877 as in the foregoing year; the number of petitions for dissolution of marriage having been three, or one more than in 1876; the number of decrees granted four, or three more.

Probates, &c.

In the number of probates granted there was a large increase, the numbers and amounts in the same two years being as follows:—

—	1876.	1877.
Number - - - -	96	116
Sworn value of property - -	£92,571	£191,103

The letters of administration were as under:—

—	1876.	1877.
Number - - - -	36	35
Sworn value of property - -	£19,783	£34,408

Bankruptcies.

The petitions in bankruptcy were fewer; the petitions for liquidation by arrangement considerably more numerous, as the following comparison will show:—

—	1876.	1877.
Petitions in bankruptcy - -	8	5
Ditto for liquidation by arrangement	16	28

Mortgages, &c.

The transactions relating to land under the old system in those years was as follows:—

—		1876.	1877.
Mortgages	Number	338	354
	Amount	£231,985	£173,992
Memorials	Number	1,039	1,154
Judgments	Number	19	28
	Amount	£4,195	£10,381
Certificates of Satisfaction	Number	73	70
	Amount	£66,608	£44,612

The total number of mortgages registered under both systems was as under:—

—		1876.	1877.
Number	Under old system	338	354
	Under new ditto	168	234
		506	588

—		1876.	1877.
		£	£
Amount	Under old system	231,985	173,992
	Under new ditto	55,994	103,057
		287,979	277,049

Lands' Titles.

There was an increase in the transactions in the Lands' Titles office, the figures being—

—	1876.	1877.
Total number of transactions	1,068	1,197
Value of land	£235,499	£278,609
Area of land, acres	121,347	93,459

Bills of Sale.

In respect of bills of sale there was also a large increase, the amounts being, in 1876, 49,652*l.*; in 1877, 81,576*l.* The numbers (including renewals) were, in 1876, 173; in 1877, 233.

Grant Deeds.

Grant deeds were registered to the number of 364 in 1877, and of 409 in 1876.

Inquests

The inquests in 1877 were much more numerous than in 1876 the numbers being—

In 1876 - - - -	126
„ 1877 - - - -	157

Here again we see the prevalence of the homicidal tendency; and more deaths were caused by excessive drinking, disease, want, exposure, &c. :—

—	1876.	1877.
Murder - - - - -	1	4
Manslaughter - - - -	—	1
Suicide - - - - -	4	10
Excessive drinking - - -	6	7
Diseases aggravated by neglect -	—	3
Want, cold, exposure, &c. - -	1	3

VIII.—EDUCATION, &c.

Public Schools.

The following was the number of public schools under the Board of Education, with the number of teachers, and the attendance and expenditure (omitting fractions) in the last two years : —

NUMBER.

Years.	Number of Schools.	Distinct Scholars on Rolls.	Average Number of Scholars.	Average Daily Attendance.	Scholars entered during Year.	Scholars left during Year.	Teachers and Assistant Teachers.	Pupil-teachers and paid Monitors.
1876 -	158	12,231	8,140	5,867	3,912	2,776	240	42
1877 -	165	12,557	8,222	5,973	4,179	2,841	259	38

The increase in the number of distinct scholars was only 326, and in the average daily attendance 106, or 2·66 and 1·81 respectively per cent., the increase in the estimated population being 1·54 per cent., so that the influx of scholars was to the extent of the difference in advance of the growth of population.

EXPENDITURE, &c.

Years.	Contributed by the State.	Fees from Parents and Guardians.	Total Cost.	Average Cost to State per head in Daily Attendance.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1876 - -	14,625	5,182	19,806	2 9 10¼
1877 - -	14,705	5,401	20,106	2 12 6¾

Adding the cost of administration in 1877, not included in the above, the whole expenditure from the Treasury on account of

the State schools was 17,191*l.*, and the cost per head 2*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.*, against 2*l.* 14*s.* 4¼*d.* in 1876. The rate per head contributed by the parents was 18*s.* 1*d.* in 1877, and 17*s.* 8*d.* in 1876, having been only 13*s.* 0¾*d.* in 1870.

Higher Education.

The cost of higher education to the public funds in the same two years was :—

—	1876.	1877.
	£	£
Exhibitions - - - -	688	757
Degree of Associate of Arts - -	226	225
Tasmanian Scholarships - -	1,317	1,683
Departmental expenses - - -	72	74
	2,303	2,739

Friendly Societies.

The Statistical Returns Act has had the effect of increasing the number of friendly societies complying with the requirements of the Friendly Societies Act, as to filing returns, from 23 in 1876, to 44 in 1877. Under such circumstances, therefore, it would be useless to make any comparison between the returns for those years. In 1877 the number of members of the societies rendering returns was 3,624; the receipts, 11,354; the expenditure, 9,663*l.*; and the total capital, 28,082*l.*

IX.—Vital Statistics.

Births.

During 1877 the births of 3,211 children were registered, being 62 more than in 1876. The birth rate was 30·21 per 1,000 of population living at the middle of the year, and is the highest since 1871, when it was 30·53. The latter was the only other year in the decennium which exceeded it.

The proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to the births was 11·37 per cent., that is, 88·63 per cent. of the children born survived the dangers of the first year of their life. Only twice in 12 years has this proportion been exceeded, in 1875, when it was 13·11, and in 1868, when it was 11·74.

Of the births in 1877, 1,645 were those of males, and 1,566 those of females, being in the proportion of 105 to 100.

Deaths.

The registered deaths numbered 2,038, to which have to be added two unregistered, one of a convict at Port Arthur, the other of a criminal executed, making a total of 2,040, which gives a death rate per 1,000 of living population of 19·19. This is considerably higher than in 1876, which was 16·57, though

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under that of 1875, namely, 20·01. It increased in 1874 suddenly from 14·60 to 16·22, and has been rising since. The largest number of deaths which ever took place in the history of this Colony, with the exception of 1875 and 1877, was 2,017 (not including those of prisoners of the Crown) in 1853, which was about 31 per 1,000. In the two years following the numbers were also exceptionally large, being 1,928 and 1,692 respectively. In the eight years contained within the period 1866–73, which had an average and even mortality, the death rate was 14·07 per 1,000 only.

This increase of mortality in the last four years, traceable as it is, at least in many cases, to removable causes, is a matter worthy of very serious consideration; and, in view of its great importance, I may perhaps be permitted to suggest that the most effectual way of dealing with the subject would seem to be to appoint a sufficient number of health officers throughout the settled districts of the Island, whose duty it would be, whenever any epidemic or preventible disease should appear in their respective localities, to investigate the causes, and call upon the local authorities to apply the proper remedy; and, on their failing to do so promptly, to take the necessary steps, with the approval of the general Government, which should defray the expenditure in the first instance, recouping itself afterwards by deducting it from any moneys payable to the district from the Treasury; or, where no such moneys were payable, by any other available process. To enable the health officers the better to perform their duty, immediate notice of the registration of any death from typhoid fever, diphtheria, or any disease of similar character, should be sent to them by the deputy registrars.

Hobart Town and its suburbs have an active and enthusiastic health officer, who, however, can do nothing beyond making suggestions to the municipal council. He has no power to act; and if the council choose to treat his representations with indifference his functions are exhausted. The whole question of the public health needs to be vigorously attacked; the filthy open sewer which runs through the city to be abolished; fœcal matter to be prevented from discharging into it; soapsuds and other putrefactive elements from being thrown into the streets; and proper arrangements made for removing them. For such substances, observes the Registrar-General of England (Report for 1870), "the soil is their proper receptacle." "The sewage "question has made such progress that towns are no longer "excusable for neglecting to deal with it. It is agreed that the "excreta should no longer be thrown into rivers, but be rapidly "restored to the earth, and this can be done by the dry or wet "method, according to the circumstances of each case;" the dry being more suited to our own.

That disease has been produced by the pollution of some of our rivers has been shown by our health officer; and the time seems to have arrived when increased vigilance and more stringent measures are required to preserve their purity. The subjoined

table will show where some of the greatest increases of mortality have been—those districts being excluded in which the larger number of deaths may fairly be supposed to have been caused by a corresponding influx of population :—

——	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Campbell Town - -	23	29	52	81	56	47
Deloraine - -	28	24	49	62	41	36
Franklin - -	23	10	18	30	24	49
Esperance - -	4	4	13	16	14	40
George Town - -	5	15	21	16	28	21
Hobart - - -	545	584	586	753	605	759
Launceston - -	275	316	322	336	337	356
Morven - - -	17	32	40	55	28	34
New Norfolk - -	42	63	64	75	72	89
Oatlands - -	32	22	56	53	35	58

The most remarkable instances here are Esperance and George Town, the former having ten times, the latter more than four times, the mortality of six years since, without, as far as we know, any corresponding augmentation of inhabitants. In Hobart district the deaths increased by 39 per cent., in Launceston by about 29½.

Three districts show a most noticeable decrease :—

——	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Kingston - -	15	19	18	14	5	10
Victoria - -	14	10	1	8	8	5
Horton - - -	15	8	16	25	10	9

I now turn to compare the prevalence of the different diseases in the last two years. The ratio per cent. to the total specified diseases was as under :—

——	1876.	1877.
I. Zymotic - - - -	20·25	26·24
II. Constitutional - - -	11·96	12·33
III. Local - - - -	42·53	36·53
IV. Developmental - - -	17·91	19·31
V. Violent - - - -	7·35	5·59
	100·00	100·00

It will be seen that the increases were in the zymotic, constitutional, and developmental classes, the great preponderance being in the first. The chief differences in the fatality of diseases in the various classes were as follows:—Scarlatina, more than

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double; diphtheria, from 47 to 72; typhoid and similar fevers, from 26 to 41; erysipelas, from 5 to 15; influenza, from 5 to 11; dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera, from 92 to 117; phthisis, from 99 to 125; diseases of the respiratory system, from 111 to 148; developmental diseases of children, from 32 to 55; of old people, from 201 to 230.

As regards ages, there was a considerable increase in 1877 at nearly all except 50 to 60 and 90 and upwards. Between 80 and 90 the increase was only of 1.

Marriages.

The marriages numbered 831, an increase of 85 on those of 1876. The rate per 1,000 of population was 7·82, the highest for many years. That for 1876 was 7·13.

All the different denominations had an increase except the Baptists, Quakers, and "Christians," whose numbers were unchanged. Only five, or 0·6 per cent., were contracted before deputy registrars.

Vaccinations.

In view of a possible introduction of small-pox, active measures were taken in the course of the year to provide greater facilities for vaccination; the result being that 9,558 persons were operated on, the number seen on the eighth day being 9,351, and the successful cases 9,289.

Diseases and Deaths in Hospitals.

The number of diseases treated and of deaths which occurred in the general hospitals of the Colony in 1877 was considerably greater than in the year before, having been,—

	Cases treated.	Deaths.
In 1877 - - - -	1,954	227
In 1876 - - - -	1,755	189
Increase - - -	199	38

The rate of mortality per cent. of cases was,—in 1877, 11·62; in 1876, 10·77. The rate for 1877 was not far below that of 1875, the most unhealthy year for a long time past, namely, 12 per cent.

At Queen's Asylum.

At the Queen's Asylum the amount of sickness was less than in 1876, the cases being 117 and 148 respectively. One death took place in 1877. There were no deaths in 1875 and 1876.

In other Establishments.

In the other Government establishments the sickness and mortality in the two years were as follows :—

—	Cases treated.	Deaths.
Gaols and penal establishments, 1877 -	982	10
„ „ 1876 -	1,362	8
Pauper establishments, 1877 - -	4,111	161
„ 1876 - -	4,159	131

The following were the proportions per cent. which the deaths bore to the average numbers maintained throughout the year :—

—	1877.	1876.
Gaols and penal establishments - -	2·96	1·96
Pauper establishments - - -	19·19	15·34
Queen's Asylum - - -	·78	—
Hospitals for insane - - -	9·24	12·37

Meteorology.

During the last year the Meteorological Tables for Hobart Town, published by the local Royal Society, were brought up to 35 years, and are included in the present volume. Comparing the table for 1877 with the means for the 35 years we find the following results :—

Barometer - -	·694	above.
Thermometer (Fahr.) -	1·13	below.
Ozone - - - -	2·02	„
Rain, inches - - -	3·27	„

A change in the system of recording the wind-force (*inter alia*) was made in 1876, and we cannot therefore compare the wind-force of 1877 with that of the 35 years. The mean monthly force was ·81, being less by ·01 than in 1876. The maximum force at any one observation was 26·04 lbs. in 1876, but only 15·62 in 1877, indicating considerably less aërial movement.

The prevailing wind is always the north-west. The next in point of frequency is usually the south-east, but during the last two years it was the west.

The pressure of the air in 1877 was greater than in 1876, the temperature lower, humidity and rain-fall less, spontaneous evaporation greater, obscuration less, amount of ozone slightly greater.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS

Political Franchise.

The number of electors for each House of Parliament after the revision of the rolls for the year was—

For the Legislative Council	-	2,983
For the House of Assembly	-	15,126
		18,109

653 names having been added.

A review of these statistics as a whole shows that during the past year the prosperity of the Colony was increasing. The value of its mineral productions was much greater; so also was the quantity of wool. The imports and exports, and the shipping employed, were larger in amount, the revenue more buoyant, wages and prices were higher, the number of paupers and criminals in the Government establishments was smaller, the capital in the banks was accumulating, the Crown lands were sold in larger quantity and for higher value, and produced more by way of rent; more houses were built in the capital; and crime diminished.

Taking into consideration the depression which is so generally felt throughout a great part of the world, both old and new, and the uncertainty as to foreign politics which prevailed during the year, the progress made must be considered as highly satisfactory. In the present year the further advance in mining of various kinds which is taking place, and the late rise in the price of our staple commodity, wool, may be expected, when the time to deal with the statistics of 1878 arrives, to have produced a still more favourable effect.

I cannot close this report without paying a passing tribute to the memory of my late assistant, Mr. John J. Barnard, who died on last Christmas Day. It was in consequence of the high encomiums which he received from the department of the Government in England in which he had served that I was induced to recommend him for appointment here, and he more than fulfilled my expectations. Singularly fitted in every way, both by inclination and ability, for the work; possessed of a reflective mind, with a ripeness and soundness of judgment beyond his years; careful and accurate; earnest and conscientious, not satisfied with barely discharging his duty, but employing in it all his powers and energies. In him this Government has lost one of its most faithful and capable servants, and I a zealous fellow worker and valued friend.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

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No. 12.

Major-General Sir H. ST. GEORGE ORD, R.E., C.B., K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Perth,
August 3, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1877.

2. The Colonial Secretary being under the impression that he was expected to furnish the Governor with a report on the Book for the information of the Legislature, has prepared a very careful and well digested paper on the subject, supplying exactly the information needed to accompany the document, which I have the honour to forward in lieu of any report from myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD.

The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT upon the BLUE BOOK for 1877.

Western Australia.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
August 1, 1878.

SIR,

IN submitting to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1877, I have to offer the following remarks on the progress of the Colony during the past year:—

Taxes and Duties.

During the year there was no alteration in the sources of revenue.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1877, as compared with 1876, shows an increase of 3,223*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, the total receipts in 1877 being 165,412*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, against 162,189*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* in 1876. Under the head of special receipts, 7,609*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* was received, or 5,687*l.* 12*s.* more than in the previous year; this increase is entirely owing to the extension of the guano trade at the Lacepede Islands. Postages and commission on money orders likewise realised in 1877 1,300*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* more than in 1876. Many other services show small though steady increments. I regret, however, to observe that the revenue derived from customs has considerably fallen off, the amount obtained from that source being 3,891*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

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less than in the previous year, principally due to decrease in the importation of ad valorem goods and tobacco.

There was likewise a falling off in land sales, the total collected being 7,233*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, against 8,460*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* in 1876, which may be partly explained by the operation of clauses 44 and 92 of New Land Regulations, which tend to decrease the revenue derived from land sales, allowing as they do of deferred payment (large numbers of tillage leases likewise becoming freehold through effluxion of time have a similar tendency), partly by the continued depression consequent on a series of bad seasons and losses sustained thereby.

The revenue obtained from the Northern District, chiefly by the issue of pearling licenses and export duty on pearls, amounted in 1877 to only 789*l.* 17*s.*, whereas nearly double that sum was realised in the year previous.

The other heads under which there has been decrease in the revenue give no idea of the financial progress or otherwise of the Colony. Fines, fees, forfeitures, and government sales being necessarily of a very fluctuating nature.

Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to 182,959*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, showing an excess over the revenue of 17,546*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* This excess of expenditure is chiefly owing to the overdraft on account of the Eucla telegraph line, relief to destitute persons, education, and miscellaneous services.

Public Debt.

The entire debt of the Colony amounted at the close of 1877 to 161,000*l.* Of this amount 126,000*l.* was obtained at 5 per cent., the remainder, amounting to 35,000*l.*, at 6 per cent. The loan of 1872 was raised for the furtherance of the public works of the Colony, whilst those for 1873 and 1874 were solely for the construction and completion of the Geraldton and Northampton Railway, and the telegraphic line from Newcastle to Geraldton and Northampton.

The interest is payable from general revenue, and the repayment of the loans is insured by a sinking fund of 2 per centum per annum on the amount of the debentures issued.

Volunteer Return.

The volunteer force of the Colony has increased from 360 in 1876 to 509, of all ranks, in 1877. It is composed as follows:— One troop of horse artillery, two troops mounted volunteers, and four companies of rifles, and its expenses are covered by a vote of 1,000*l.* The force is in an efficient state, and is very popular.

Imperial Expenditure.

The expenditure incurred by Great Britain for military protection and in aid of the Civil Establishment was 70,972*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
On account of pay of the troops, provisions, &c. - - - - -	25,676	12	7
On account of advances and supplies for Her Majesty's ships - - - -	1,861	7	0
On account of Treasury - - -	7,114	1	7
On account of convicts (including 15,293*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* for magistracy and land police)	36,320	9	0

Public Works.

The public works carried out during the year 1877 have been of an important character. Western Australia, through the completion of the Eucla telegraph on the 9th December, became connected with the other Australian Colonies and "the rest of the world," as states the Director of Public Works in his report. This undertaking has been paid for out of current revenue, and will have cost the Colony close on 42,000*l.* The line northward has been extended from Geraldton to Northampton, a distance of 34 miles, whilst eastward there has been an extension of 19 miles from York to Beverley, which latter has thus been brought into telegraphic communication with other parts of the Colony.

The railway from Geraldton to Northampton is still unfinished, but the line has been opened for mineral traffic for 23 miles. It is expected that in a few months more the line will be opened throughout its entire length, 35 miles, of which only about three now remain uncompleted. This railway should be of great benefit to the mining communities of Northampton and surrounding districts, by doing away with the difficulty hitherto existing of transporting ore from the pit's mouth to the port at Champion Bay, and it is to be hoped that on its completion, new mines will be opened up, and there will be a considerable addition to the amount of lead and copper exported, whilst an impetus generally will be given to the district.

Preliminary surveys for the railroad between Fremantle, Perth, and Guildford have been made, and this important work will be commenced in the current year. The line will be continued to Guildford, and thence into the eastern districts, at, it is to be hoped, no distant date.

Other important works are the lighthouses at Point Moore and Fremantle. The former is constructed of iron plates, and was erected at a cost of 8,000*l.*; to this outlay must be added the lightkeeper's quarters, which with store, &c., will cost about 1,400*l.*

The Fremantle lighthouse, recently completed, is built of stone, from designs by Mr. Thomas, Director of Public Works, and is a vast improvement upon the old one, which will shortly be pulled down. The light is a fixed white light, whilst that of Point Moore is a revolving flash one.

The extension of the new public offices was commenced in the latter part of last year; and a building for the photo-lithographic establishment in connexion with the Surveyor-General's Department is now near completion.

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Various schools are being built throughout the Colony, under the auspices of the Central Board of Education, from designs by the Director of Public Works, of these the chief are—

A girls' and infants' school in Perth, capable of accommodating 360 children; girls' and infants' school at Fremantle for a like number; and a boys' and girls' school at Northam. These three schools will, when completed, have cost not far short of 6,500*l.*

The deepening of the channels in the Swan and Canning rivers, has been systematically carried on throughout the past year, the navigation being much improved thereby.

The dredge has been daily at work, and the silt raised has been utilized in recovering land from the river.

Legislation.

The following Acts of Council were passed during the session of 1877:—

No. 1. An Act to provide for the more convenient administration of "The Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873."

No. 2. An Act to make further provision for the maintenance of discipline among prisoners employed outside the walls of a prison.

No. 3. An Act to make further provision for the audit of accounts of Local Road Boards.

No. 4. An Act to amend the "Imported Stock Act, 1876."

No. 5. An Act to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year one thousand eight huudred and seventy-six beyond the grant for that year.

No. 6. An Act to provide for the enclosure of certain portions of certain streets in the town of Fremantle.

No. 7. An Act to amend "The Industrial Schools Act, 1874."

No. 8. An Act to repeal an Act, intituled "An Act to prohibit "the importation to and use within the Colony of Western "Australia of certain dangerous matches."

No. 9. An Act to facilitate leases and sales of settled estates.

No. 10. An Act to amend "The Pawnbroker's Ordinance, 1860."

No. 11. An Act to further amend "The Elementary Education Act, 1871."

No. 12. An Act to amend and extend the "Telegraphic Messages Act, 1874."

No. 13. An Act to amend "The Scab-in-Sheep Ordinance of 1866."

No. 14. An Act to vest in certain officers of customs in this Colony certain powers which, by "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1871," are, in the United Kingdom, vested in the Board of Trade.

No. 15. An Act to amend the law relating to procedure at the election of members to serve in the Legislative Council.

No. 16. An Act to amend "The Railways Act, 1873."

No. 17. An Act to repeal an Act intituled "An Act to facilitate "the arrest of absconding debtors," and to make other provision in lieu thereof.

No. 18. An Act to amend the twenty-sixth section of "The Police Ordinance, 1861."

No. 19. An Act to suspend the operation of "The Ballot Act, 1877."

No. 20. An Act to appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty-one thousand one hundred and fifteen pounds seven shillings and eightpence out of the general revenue of the Colony for the service of the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

No. 21. An Act to legalise the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife.

Population.

The increase, though small, is steady, the population amounting at the end of the year 1877 to 27,838, as against 27,321 at the commencement of the year. The excess of births over deaths was 479.

Education.

The report of the Inspector of Schools gives full information of the progress of education in the Colony. It cannot but be gratifying to find that on all sides urgent requisitions are made for increased school accommodation; and, anxious though it is to afford every facility to parents to obtain for their children the advantages of education, yet the Central Board finds it most difficult to meet all the demands made upon it, owing to the limited means at its disposal for erecting new schools or enlarging old ones.

In the past year the Elementary Education Act of 1871 was amended by 41 Vict. No. 11, but the Act only came into operation this year; its working, whether beneficial or otherwise, cannot at present be ascertained. The principle of the new Act is to give to teachers a fixed minimum salary, supplemented by results, whereas under the old system the teacher's salary depended mainly on the attendance of the scholars; thus in centres of population the earnings of teachers were very high, whilst in country districts the reverse was the case.

In addition to Government and assisted schools, provisional ones have also been established, and a system of itinerary teaching introduced, so that even in the most thinly populated districts opportunities are afforded of instruction.

Subjoined is a table of the average attendance and cost per head for the last three years.

—	Years.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Cost per Head.
					£ s. d.
Government schools	1875	58	2,453	1,918	2 19 3
„ „	1876	58	2,475	2,004	3 2 3
„ „	1877	57	2,515	2,043	3 5 8
Assisted schools -	1875	20	1,305	1,063	1 10 0
„ „ -	1876	22	1,389	1,097	1 10 1
„ „ -	1877	21	1,346	1,053	1 12 2

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This is altogether not as satisfactory as could be desired, for whilst the attendance has not increased, the cost per head has; it is hoped, however, that under the new system it will not be so heavy.

Imports and Exports.

The imports in the past year, as compared with 1876, do not convey the impression that the Colony is in a satisfactory condition, unless on the assumption that we are our own producers; such is not the case, however. The imports in 1876 amounted in value to 386,036*l.* 19*s.* 9*d*, against 362,706*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* in 1877, showing a decrease of 23,330*l.* 9*s.*, which falling off has been principally in ad valorem goods and tobacco. On nearly every item of ad valorem goods 1877 shows a considerable decrease, bricks and cement, hats and bonnets, and oilmen's stores, almost alone excepted.

The value of exports, as shown by Blue Book, is less than that of 1876 by 23,948*l.*; in 1877 goods to the value only of 373,351*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* being exported, against 397,292*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year. It must be borne in mind, however, that presumably the price of wool was over-estimated in 1876, and a reduction of 2*d.* in the lb. was made in 1877, though the wool was averaging higher prices than in 1876. Had wool been estimated as in that year at 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb., a sum of 33,270*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* would have to be added to value of exports in 1877, in which case it would exceed that of 1876 by 9,329*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of IMPORTS in 1876–77.

Ad Valorem Goods.	Increment.		Specific Duties.	Increment.	
	1876.	1877.		1876.	1877.
	£	£	Brought forward -	£ 41,058	£ 2,681
Wearing apparel -	2,454	—	Brandy - -	2,239	—
Apothecary wares -	2,115	—	Geneva - -	43	—
Brooms and brushes -	34	—	Gin - - -	711	—
Bricks and cement -	—	656	Liqueurs - -	12	—
Boots and shoes -	2,145	—	Rum - - -	1,029	—
Bread and biscuits -	440	—	Whiskey - -	—	302
Cabinet and upholstery wares - -	1,923	—	Wine - -	922	—
Cordage, twine, and canvas - - -	2,423	—	Tobacco (manufactured) -	—	10
Carts and carriages -	1,315	—	Do. (unmanufactured) -	282	—
Deals, boards, timber, and spars - -	1,270	—	Cigars - - / Snuff - -	498	—
Drapery, millinery, and haberdashery -	12,802	—	Beer (in draught) -	—	488
Earthenware and glass	997	—	Do. (in bottle) -	—	819
Fancy goods and toys -	1,749	—	Bran and pollard -	1,023	—
Grindery - -	317	—	Butter - -	1,917	—
Hardware and cutlery -	366	—	Candied peel - -	34	—
Hats and bonnets -	—	682	Cheese - -	2,146	—
Hay and chaff - -	113	—	Chicory - - / Coffee - -	—	151

Ad Valorem Goods.	Increment. 1876.	Increment. 1877.	Specific Duties.	Increment. 1876.	Increment. 1877.
	£	£		£	£
Hops and malt -	284	—	Confectionery and comfits - -	426	—
Ironmongery - -	1,217	—	Corn and grain -	4,064	—
Jewellery and plate -	548	—	Fruits, dried, &c. -	—	366
Leather - -	39	—	Hay - - -	205	—
Lead - - -	—	57	Meal - - -	615	—
Mats and baskets -	223	—	Potatoes - -	—	402
Musical instruments -	—	86	Provisions, salted -	493	—
Oilman stores - -	—	672	Spice - -	—	2
Oils, paints, and colours	2,101	—	Sugar, refined -	124	—
Powder and shot -	237	—	Do. moist, and molasses - -	3,833	—
Rice - - -	918	—	Tea - - -	—	2,948
Saddlery and harness -	2,310	—	Vinegar - -	17	—
Soap and candles -	673	—	Bacon, hams, and tongues - -	—	1,024
Stationery - -	502	—	Canvas - -	—	624
Sulphur - -	—	99	Chains under ½ an inch	29	—
Ship chandlery -	—	215	Do. galvanised -	—	35
Tools and implements -	88	—	Cocoa and chocolate -	—	207
Wood goods - -	508	—	Cordage - -	—	1,259
Sewing machines -	205	—	Ginger - -	—	9
Syrups and aërated waters - -	—	214	Hops - - -	—	366
All other goods not described -	742	—	Oil, mineral - -	—	4,229
			Onions -	—	4
			Pepper - -	—	302
			Rice - - -	—	587
			Sago - - -	—	25
			Salt - - -	—	248
			Soda, crystal - -	—	14
			Total specific duty	20,662	14,421
Total ad valorem goods	41,058	2,681	Combined totals -	61,720	17,102*

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of some of the PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORT in 1876–77.

HORSES.

1876.	773 horses at 14*l.* 0*s.* each	10,822	
1877.	632† „ 12*l.* 10*s.* „	7,900	
	141	2,922	decrease in 1877.

OIL, WHALE.

	£	
1876.	6,673	
1877.	6,344	
	329	decrease in 1877.

ORE, COPPER.

		£ s. d.	
1876.	279 tons at 15*l.* per ton	4,185 0 0	
1877.	53½ „ „	802 10 0	
	225½	3,382 10 0	decrease in 1877.

* Showing a decrease in 1877 of 44,618*l.*

† If calculated at 14*l.* instead of 12*l.* 10*s.* each the decrease would be only 1,974*l.*

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ORE, LEAD.

		£	
1876.	2,191½ tons at 12*l.* per ton	26,298	
1877.	3,955½ „ „	47,466	
	1,764	21,168	increase in 1877.

PEARLS.

	£	
1876.	8,000	
1877.	10,000	
	2,000	increase in 1877.

PROVISIONS AND PROVENDER.

	£	
1876.	4,905	
1877.	5,422	
	517	increase in 1877.

SANDALWOOD.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	
1876.	6,577¼ tons at 10*l.* 0*s.* per ton	65,772	10	0	
1877.	4,246¾* „ 7*l.* 10*s.* „	31,850	12	6	
	2,330½	33,921	17	6	decrease in 1877.

SHELLS, MOTHER O'PEARL.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	
1876.	375*l.* and 388¼ tons at 190*l.* per ton	74,142	10	0	
1877.	103¾† „ 120*l.* „	12,450	0	0	
		61,692	10	0	decrease in 1877.

SHELLS, MOTHER O'PEARL, SHARKS BAY.

1876.	150*l.* and 250 tons at 4*l.* per ton	£1,150
1877.	Nil.	

TIMBER.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	
1876.	293*l.* and 4,690 loads at 5*l.* 0*s.* per load	23,743	0	0	
1877.	6,723½‡ „ 5*l.* 10*s.* „	36,979	5	0	
		13,236	5	0	increase in 1877.

WOOL.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	
1876.	2,831,174 lbs. at 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb.	165,151	16	4	
1877.	3,992,487 „ 1*s.* 0*d.*§ „	199,624	7	0	
	1,161,313	34,472	10	8	increase in 1877.

LEATHER.

	£	
1876.	714	value.
1877.	1,462	„
	748	„ increase in 1877.

* If calculated at 10*l.* per ton the decrease would be only 23,305*l.*
† If calculated at 190*l.* per ton the decrease would be only 54,430*l.*
‡ If calculated at 5*l.* per load the increase would be only 9,874*l.* 10*s.*
§ If calculated at 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb. the increase would be 67,743*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

Shipping.

The returns of vessels entered show a decrease both in numbers and tonnage, there being in 1877 142 of an aggregate tonnage of 73,596, as opposed to 173 vessels with a total of 79,108 tons. Whilst 11 vessels were built in the Colony in 1876, only six were constructed last year, averaging in the former year 34 tons each, against 41 tons in 1877.

Labour.

The emigrants sent out to this Colony have, with few exceptions, been the reverse of what was wanted to meet its requirements. Apparently they have been picked up in large manufacturing districts instead of in agricultural counties such as Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Kent, &c. The result has been dissatisfaction on the part of settlers, disappointment on that of the immigrants, resulting in the stoppage of immigration by the almost unanimous voice of the country. Immigration, whenever reintroduced, must be under auspices entirely different to those hitherto existing, or otherwise we shall lay the foundation of troubles in the future by bringing into our midst a discontented and useless community.

Agriculture.

Whilst the uncultivated acreage of Western Australia is calculated by hundreds of millions of acres, the cultivated may be reckoned by thousands. In plain figures, 626,060,732 represents the uncultivated, whilst 50,591 shows the number of acres in crops. It is not surprising then to find that we are dependent on Victoria and South Australia for a large quantity of our cereals, more particularly wheat. The value of flour alone imported in 1877 from the other Colonies amounted to 31,913*l.* 6*s.*, whilst in the previous year corn and grain valued at 25,305*l.* only was needed, and this notwithstanding that the return of produce for 1877 was higher than in 1876. In the latter year red rust had played sad havoc with the crops, which it did not do in 1877. Nevertheless, last year had also its drawbacks in the shape of drought when rain was most urgently wanted; the consequence was that there was a failure in wheat, barley, and oats, and in many cases the farmers were compelled by the inferiority of crops to convert them into hay. Small as is the quantity of land in use for agricultural purposes, yet a slight improvement is shown in 1877 against 1876, in which latter year only 45,933 acres were cultivated, evidencing an increase of nearly 5,000 acres.

The blight amongst grapes was prevalent in many parts, notably in the vicinity of Perth. Where, however, precautions had been taken early of syringing the vines with sulphur the disease was checked, if not altogether prevented. Those most interested in the cultivation of the vine have adopted various methods to overcome the oidium tuckeri scourge, commonly known as the "black spot," but none seem more successful than

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the frequent use of sulphur. Some simply syringe the vines when shooting, others may be said to manure the ground with it, whilst many again sulphur the very root of the vine itself. The outcome from vineyards throughout the Colony was very small, but there is no doubt that those who neglected the use of sulphur have in the past year learnt by sad experience that means must be adopted to ward off this disease.

Stock.

The returns for 1877 show a diminution in stock, pigs alone excepted. This is not owing to any increased exportation of horses or other live stock, inasmuch as there is a diminution in exports in 1877 as compared with 1876. On the other hand, stock to the value of 10,770*l.* 10*s.* was imported into the Colony in the latter year, against only 1,546*l.* in 1876; so that in reality, notwithstanding the increased number of cattle imported, a considerable falling off appears, which can only be accounted for by the drought and the consequent mortality amongst cattle and sheep of all descriptions.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns from the Superintendent of Police, Captain Smith, show a considerable decrease in crime. Whether for offences against the person or property, or for more serious crimes, there has been a falling off in 1877 as compared with the previous year. It must, however, be admitted that in 1876 there was a considerable and almost unaccountable increase in crime over previous years.

In prædial larceny alone there is an excess of three in 1877. The following comparative table is given for ready reference:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
The number of offences reported to the police -	5,403	5,831	7,509	6,855
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - -	5,403	5,831	7,509	6,855
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. For offences against the person - -	253	272	341	325
2. For prædial larceny - - -	22	12	7	13
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	223	241	305	280
4. For other offences - - -	3,464	3,795	5,194	4,654
The number of convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
1. For offences against the person - -	8	11	16	13
2. For prædial larceny - - -	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	22	23	12	4
4. For other offences - - -	7	6	19	10
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,341	1,403	1,567	1,583
2. In the superior courts - - -	36	47	31	22

Land.

The total amount of rural lands sold during the year amount to 17,670 acres, for which the sum of 5,237*l*, 16*s*. 7*d*. was received.

Town and suburban lands, 210 acres and 22 perches, realised 1,133*l*. 2*s*. 1*d*.

The difference between the value of land sold in 1877 (6,370*l*. 18*s*. 8*d*.) and the amount actually received on account of land sales (7,233*l*. 11*s*. 2*d*.) was caused by receipts for land sold in 1876 but not paid for in that year.

The amount received as rents for Crown lands from all sources amounts to 24,133*l*. 14*s*. 10*d*.

Reserves set apart for various religious bodies, 150 acres.

Reserves for general purposes:—Rural lands 15,215 acres. Town and suburban 130 acres, 1 rood, 10 perches.

Quantity of work done by contract surveyors 40,703 acres, 1 rood, 10 perches, costing 1,819*l*. 4*s*., in addition 24 miles roads, 61¼ miles rivers, 18½ miles connexions, and travelling allowances, costing altogether 657*l*. 6*s*. 1*d*.

Convict Establishment.

The expenses in 1877 incurred for the maintenance of the convict establishment, and magistracy, and police was 36,320*l*. 9*s*., as against 37,548*l*. 12*s*. in 1876, the decrease arises from the gradual falling off in the number of convicts, either through death, expiration of sentence, or otherwise. The number of convicts at the end of last year, and the manner in which they were distributed throughout the Colony, as gathered from a return made by the Superintendent of Convicts, was as follows: —

On the Public Works.			Invalids and Hospitals.			Lunatic Asylum.	Ticket-of-leave Holders in private Service.	Conditional Release Holders.	Grand Total.
Probation and re-convicted Ticket-of-leave Holders.	Ticket-of-leave Holders out of employment.	Total.	Probation and re-convicted Ticket-of-leave Holders.	Ticket-of-leave Holders.	Total.				
221	6	227	7	18	25	13	356	58	679

The convicts for the most part are men physically unfit for heavy work. The services of those who are mechanics by trade are utilized as such, but they are but few; the majority are employed quarrying stone, repair of roads, &c., in fact as mere labourers. The fact, too, must not be lost sight of, that those now in Western Australia who on the expiration of their sentences had received certificates of health are no longer chargeable to Imperial funds, but in the event of illness or pauperism become a drag on the Colonial Government. This appears hardly equitable, as it is evidenced by the number of convicts in the poor houses that partly through the change in their mode of living, partly through

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a return on obtaining their freedom to the course of life pursued by them prior to transportation, their constitutions rapidly impair, and they become physically incapable of earning a livelihood. At the present time, and only years have elapsed since Western Australia was constituted a penal settlement, no less than 60 out of a total of 90, or two-thirds of those in Mount Eliza Poor House, are of the convict class.

Public Health.

The Colonial Surgeon reports well of the healthy condition of the Colony, comparing, as he states, favourably with that of the neighbouring Colonies. He draws attention to the inoperation of the Vaccination Act. This, however, has not been lost sight of, and in the session an amending Act was passed by the Government which will, it is believed, have the desired effect of enforcing vaccination. The opinion of the Colonial Surgeon that not more than one-third of the children born during the year are protected from small-pox shows that fresh legislation was rendered necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROGER TUCKFD. GOLDSWORTHY,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Major-General,
Sir H. St. George Ord, R.E., C.B., K.C.M.G., Governor,
&c. &c &c.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 13.

Governor Sir J. R. LONGDEN, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
October 24th, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1877, and to submit the following remarks on its contents. I hope next year to be able to enter more fully into the consideration of the comparative statistics and progress of the Colony, but having assumed the Government only towards the close of 1877, I am not in a position to do more than comment briefly on the more salient features of the returns which I forward.

Revenue and Expenditure.

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2. The revenue for 1877 amounted to Rs. 17,026,191 67 (1,596,205*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.*) and the expenditure on the votes of the year to Rs. 15,330,839 41½ (1,437,266*l.* 3*s.* 10¾*d.*), showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 1,695,332 25½ (158,939*l.* 5*s.* 5¾*d.*). As compared with 1876, the revenue shows an increase of Rs. 2,350,055 65¾ (220,317*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*), and the expenditure on the votes of the year an increase of Rs. 1,710,249 39 (160,335*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*). To arrive at the gross expenditure of the year there should be added to the expenditure on the votes of the year a sum of Rs. 1,200,000 (112,500*l.*) charged against surplus funds of past years, and Rs. 898,158 78 (84,202*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*) being the amount of balances of previous years' votes brought forward, which together bring the grand total of the gross expenditure of the year to Rs. 17,428,998 19½ (1,633,968*l.* 11*s.* 7¾*d.*).

3. The following are the principal items of increase :—

Revenue.

Of the increase of Rs. 351,691 in customs receipts, more than two-thirds or Rs. 269,540 is attributable to an increased importation of grain, the imports of rice being returned at 6,572,104 bushels as against 5,744,531 in 1876.

Land Sales.—The very large item of Rs. 1,550,372, under the head of Land Sales, represents the total receipts credited during the year on account of land sold, and exceeds the corresponding item for the previous year by Rs. 680,534. It should be noted, however, that in this is included a sum of Rs. 286,639 realised by the sale of lands in the Central Province at the close of 1876, and not brought to account until the beginning of 1877.

Land Revenue. — It is gratifying to find an increase of Rs. 201,808 in the revenue derived from paddy, as it implies a larger crop by some 2,000,000 bushels than that reaped in the preceding year.

The headings Licenses and Stamps exhibit increases of Rs. 16,086 and Rs. 40,151 respectively.

Sale of Government Property.—The revenue accruing from sale of salt was Rs. 840,749, or Rs. 55,932 beyond that of 1876.

The Colonial Store figures for Rs. 815,003 or Rs. 148,337 more than in 1876, but the revenue under this head is merely nominal as the stores are sold only to public departments and are paid for from votes to those departments. There are thus three entries in the accounts in respect of stores, viz., the expenditure on the vote to the Colonial Storekeeper for purchase of stores, the expenditure on the votes to the departments purchasing the stores, and the receipts by the Colonial Storekeeper on the sale of stores. The revenue and expenditure sides of the Government accounts are thus needlessly and fictitiously swollen, and this will in future be avoided by the adoption of a different system.

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The pearl fishery produced a sum of Rs. 190,337, which must of course be regarded as an exceptional receipt.

The railway receipts show a total of Rs. 3,616,404, and an increase of Rs. 633,261 as compared with 1876. This very considerable increase is mainly to be ascribed to the fact that the coffee crop last year, though not large, came in early, and an unusually large proportion of it was carried down before the end of the year, a corresponding decrease in railway receipts has resulted in the current year.

4. The items of decrease aggregate Rs. 111,660, and do not call for any special notice.

Expenditure.

5. The expenditure shows increases under the various heads amounting to Rs. 1,936,278, and decreases amounting to Rs. 226,029, or a net increase of Rs. 1,710,249.

On Establishments, which includes fixed and provisional salaries, contingencies, and allowances, there is an increase of Rs. 266,112 and a decrease of Rs. 34,639, or a net increase of Rs. 231,473. The details of this increase will be found in the Auditor-General's statement which appears in the Blue Book. The increase of Rs. 47,913 in the cost of the Surveyor-General's establishment is owing to the re-organisation of that department, which has formed the subject of previous correspondence with the Secretary of State, and nearly the whole of it was expended on provisional salaries. The increase of Rs. 14,394, Rs. 11,474, and Rs. 16,371 in the post office, the establishment of public instruction, and the police respectively were necessary to provide for the growing requirements and the extension of those departments. The great strain which was put on the Medical Department during the year in connexion with a severe visitation of cholera and an exceptional amount of sickness introduced from the famine stricken districts of Southern India explains the increase of Rs. 18,885 on the Medical Establishments. The increase of Rs. 13,793 under the heading Convict Establishments has enabled the Government to provide additional and superior supervision in the Colombo gaols. In the expenditure on the Registrar-General's Establishment there is a decrease of Rs. 17,435, which is to be accounted for by the fact that in the previous year was included an exceptional expenditure from a vote granted in the Supplementary Supply Bill of that year to clear off arrears of fees due to registrars for the registration of births and deaths.

6. The increase of Rs. 1,478,777 on Services, exclusive of Establishments, is the difference between the gross increase Rs. 1,670,166 and the decrease Rs. 191,389, and the necessity for this increase is explained in the following paragraphs.

Revenue Services.

In this increase of Rs. 58,845 is included the cost of the pearl fishery, which produced a revenue of Rs. 190,337.

Under the heading Hospitals the increase is no less than Rs. 175,817, the expenditure of the year having reached the total of Rs. 424,496 as against Rs. 248,679 in 1876. The increased cost, which is relatively enormous, is due to exceptional causes, which will be described under the paragraph on "Public Health."

The increase of Rs. 30,007 on police and gaols, or nearly 10 per cent. on the expenditure of the preceding year, is due not to any increase in the number of prisoners in the gaols but to a rise in the price of provisions.

In the Department of Public Works the increased expenditure of Rs. 93,762 on works and buildings and Rs. 444,963 on roads, streets, and bridges does not call for any remark, save that the flourishing condition of the revenue enabled the Government to devote a larger sum than was appropriated in any previous year to works of public utility, and that it will be seen from the schedule in the estimates of the year that in the distribution of the votes the claims of the several districts of the Island were carefully considered.

The Colonial Store shows the heavy increase of Rs. 305,182, which is accounted for by the increased demand for stores for public purposes, and especially for public works.

Immigration.

The difficulties with which the Government had to contend in connexion with the influx of starving immigrants from Southern India have been reported in previous Despatches to the Secretary of State, and I would here observe that the item of increase Rs. 39,120 under the head of Immigration Services represents but a small portion of the consequent loss sustained by Ceylon, and that to it should be added the sums spent on relief or quasi relief works and a large share of the increased expenditure on hospitals.

Railway Services.

The opening of the coast line from Colombo to Panadure, and the provision of additional accomodation on the main line to meet the increased traffic satisfactorily, account for the increase of Rs. 246,643 under this heading.

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The assets of the Ceylon Government amounted on December 31st, 1877, to Rs. 7,087,759 78, or 664,477*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, and the liabilities to Rs. 6,036,245 50, or 565,898*l.* 0*s.* 4*d*; the excess of

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the former over the latter being therefore Rs. 1,051,514 28, or 98,579*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, and deducting from this the sum of Rs. 500,000 required under the instructions of the Secretary of State to be held in reserve, the nett excess amounted to Rs. 551,514 28, or 51,704*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* The debt of the Colony on the same date was 773,811*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, of which 600,000*l.* is the balance of the 700,000*l.* raised under the Ordinances No. 19 of 1862 and No. 17 of 1864 for the construction of the railway from Colombo to Kandy. For the repayment of this debt the sum of 58,000*l.* per annum is contributed by the general revenue to a sinking fund which had to its credit at the close of the year a sum of 395,387*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* The remainder of the debt consists of 75,000*l.*, less 1,188*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* repaid, received from the Public Works Commissioners under Ordinance No. 6 of 1875 towards the construction of the Colombo Breakwater, and 100,000*l.* being the first instalment of the loan of 400,000*l.* authorised for the same purpose by Ordinance No. 1 of 1876. The railway loan bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent., and the Breakwater loans at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively. Provision is made for paying off the principal and interest of the two latter loans by periodical appropriations from general revenue.

Imports and Exports.

8. The value of imports in 1877, exclusive of specie, was Rs. 54,662,403, and the value of exports, exclusive of specie, Rs. 60,853,497, being an increase on the figures for 1876 of Rs. 5,590,596 and Rs. 14,820,878 respectively.

Adding the value of specie imported and exported, the imports amount to Rs. 62,783,676, and the exports to Rs. 61,120,540, the total value of the imports and exports for the year being Rs. 123,904,216, as against Rs. 115,515,900 for the previous year.

Imports.

9. Cotton goods were imported to the value of Rs. 7,380,406, and the duty collected on the quantity entered for Island consumption amounted to Rs. 259,263, which falls short of that collected in 1876 by Rs. 61,315.

On the value of the cement imported there is an increase of Rs. 150,235, exclusive of the quantity imported for Government uses.

Coal and coke exhibit an increase of 23,006 tons, the importations being 87,008 tons against 64,002 in 1876. The bulk of the shipments or 71,952 tons was landed at Galle.

Articles of Food.

There is an increase on wheat flour of Rs. 95,723; sugar, Rs. 125,545; curry stuffs, Rs. 150,402; and dried fish, Rs. 56,522; and a decrease of Rs. 18,844 on biscuits and Rs. 23,123 on potatoes.

Grain.

The importation of rice for Island consumption largely exceeded that in 1876, 5,744,531 bushels, and amounted to 6,572,104 bushels. The duty produced an increase of Rs. 269,540.

Manures showed an increase of Rs. 1,207,924 in value; machinery an increase of Rs. 98,400; and metals and metal ware an increase of Rs. 530,917.

Poonac was imported to an additional value of Rs. 71,212 and live stock to an additional value of Rs. 123,369.

The importation of malt liquor reached a total of 333,750 gallons, of which 257,237 gallons were entered for Island consumption, and on spirits there was a slight decrease of 1,644 gallons. The increase on the value of tea, tobacco, and wines was Rs. 64,596, Rs. 87,295, and Rs. 79,815 respectively.

Exports

10. The exportation of coffee during 1877 amounted to 974,333 cwts., of the value of Rs. 49,760,228, contrasting favourably with the preceding year when 665,625 cwts. of the value of Rs. 34,240,241 were exported.

Cinchona, cocoanut oil, and citronella oil all show an increase in quantity and value exported, and plumbago a decrease as compared with the preceding year.

On arrack there is an increase of 48,853 gallons, and on ebony the large increase of 21,444 cwts., the exportations being 24,999 cwts. against 3,555 exported in 1876.

Tobacco, which is one of the chief exports of the Northern Province, shows an increase of 1,885 cwts. and Rs. 40,098 in value over the exports of 1876.

Shipping.

11. As compared with 1876 there is an increase of 125,782 tons inwards, and 52,338 tons outwards.

Public Works.

12. The expenditure of the Public Works Department was Rs. 5,058,011, being Rs. 401,210 or more than 8½ per cent. over that of 1876. The cost of the establishment, including in addition to salaries, fixed and provisional, all charges on account of allowances, transport, and office contingencies, was Rs. 405,591, or about 8 per cent. of the cost of the works executed during the year. The subjoined tables exhibit—(1.) A classification of the expenditure under the headings of establishment, construction, upkeep, repair and improvement of roads, bridges, and buildings, and irrigation works; (2.) The funds from which the expenditure has been met; (3) The expenditure incurred in the several Provinces; and (4.) An abstract of the expenditure on the various class of public works in each of the Provinces of the Island.

(1.)

—	1877.	1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Establishment, including transport, rent, and contingencies	405,591 21	383,724 24	21,866 97	—
Upkeep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works	1,721,498 02¼	1,682,838 29½	92,659 72¾	—
Repairs of buildings	111,863 76	108,787 96½	3,075 79½	—
Departmental charges and miscellaneous	249,899 37¾	190,715 08	59,184 29¾	—
New works and buildings	382,737 94½	388,836 96	—	6,099 01½
Alterations and additions to buildings	197,121 34½	105,319 66	91,801 68½	—
New roads and additions to roads	1,307,466 99½	1,099,716 55½	207,750 44	—
New bridges	439,421 82	401,358 11½	38,063 70½	—
Inland navigation	28,123 48½	21,583 11	6,540 37½	—
Irrigation works	214,287 47½	273,921 24½	—	59,633 77
Total	5,058,011 43½	4,656,801 22½	520,942 99½	65,732 78½

(2.)

	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1877	3,302,387 84¼	2,823,652 95	478,734 89¼	—
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1877	487,889 84¼	384,677 30	103,212 54¼	—
Second do. do.	3,632 89	—	3,632 89	—
Unexpended balances of previous years	814,892 99	971 630 91½	—	156,737 92½
Road Ordinance funds	253,486 66½	243,577 72½	9,908 94	—
Private contribution	175,816 61	166,092 77½	9,723 83½	—
Loan board funds	14,372 79½	18,540 83	—	4,168 03½
Surplus fund, 1873	—	47,297 71	—	47,297 71
From votes from other departments	5,531 80	1,331 02	4,200 78	—
Total	5,058,011 43½	4,656,801 22½	609,413 88	208,203 67

(3.)

	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province	1,286,048 10¾	1,453,111 24	—	167,063 13¼
North-western Province	384,722 77½	288,633 18½	96,089 59	—
Southern Province	495,783 16	475,088 15	20,695 01	—
Eastern Province	311,435 61¼	230,750 10½	80,685 50¾	—
Northern Province	580,143 38½	409,722 59	170,420 79½	—
North Central Province	397,746 95	371,470 72½	26,276 22½	—
Central Province	1,602,130 74½	1,427,995 23	174,135 51½	—
Total	5,058,011 43½	4,656,801 22½	568,302 64¼	167,063 13¼

(4.)

—	Western Province.	North-western Province.	Southern Province.	Eastern Province.	Northern Province.	North Central Province.	Central Province.	Total.
Works and Buildings.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
New works and buildings	84,182 15	9,213 15	33,457 17	11,622 63	54,051 12	*5,878 46* 22,013 2	160,935 52½	*5,878 46* 375,474 76½
Alterations and additions to buildings	65,259 92	11,341 96	33,561 44	517 61	*5,998 20* 22,186 32½	15,931 66½	38,170 91	*5,998 20* 186,969 83
Repairs to buildings	46,162 26	10,465 27	8,512 10	10,132 31	16,084 32	7,492 52½	22,800 47½	121,649 26
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals.								
New roads	125,659 14	13,341 16	70,794 37	13,195 97	161,145 39½	4,349 24	*69,741 68½* 323,227 2½	*69,741 68½* 711,711 90
Additions and improvements to roads	60,252 55	30,447 20	19,064 50	*7,025 25* 137,304 72	63,116 88	*2,412 25½* 140,055 20	80,453 4½	*9,437 50½* 530,694 9½
Upkeep of roads	*78,971 11* 325,140 0½	*34,551 24* 80,763 80	*33,087 46* 118,885 4	*7,736 39* 60,508 8¾	*31,110 39* 84,903 78	*6,774 47* 31,270 35½	*146,016 36½* 596,051 38½	*338,247 42¼* 1,297,522 45¼
New bridges	123,706 20	101,905 9	36,922 21	7,892 48	98,409 71½	50,461 91	15,413 8½	434,710 69
Repair of bridges	12,233 23	7,972 3	18,593 97	6,619 80	4,081 5	602 73	15,835 19½	65,938 0½
Inland navigation	18,977 66	8,786 86½	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	27,764 52½
Irrigation Works.								
New works	21,432 55	38,117 72	61,141 17½	13,171 20	- -	69,850 62½	11,451 1	215,164 28
Upkeep works	503 20	1,821 78	13,245 1½	6,791 97	- -	1,345 25	732 76	24,439 97½
Departmental Charges.								
Ferry boats	3,808 7	- - -	502 87	1,993 50	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,304 44
General Service	12,780 94	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,858 51	14,639 45
Miscellaneous	144,330 25¼	12,453 47	15,060 19	2,966 65½	9,841 4	2,873 28½	22,608 39	210,133 28¼
	78,971 11 1,044,428 12¾	*34,551 24* 326,629 49½	*33,087 46* 429,740 5	*14,761 64* 272,716 53¼	*37,108 59* 513,819 62½	*15,065 18½* 346,245 80½	*215,758 5* 1,289,537 31½	*429,303 27½* 4,223,116 95
Establishment	- - -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - -	- -	- - -	405,591 21
Total Rs.	- - -	-	- -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*429,303 27½* 4,628,708 16

The figures in *Italic* denote expenditure under the Road Ordinance and Private Contributions.

For further details I would refer you to the report of the Director of Public Works, which will be found in the Blue Book.

The Queen's Houses and their furniture and equipment are reported by the Director of Public Works and the Colonial Storekeeper to be in fair order.

Breakwater.

13. The expenditure on the Breakwater, which is not included in the head Public Works, amounted in 1877 to Rs. 613,527, bringing the total expenditure on this undertaking up to the close of the year to Rs. 2,652,905. The work was advanced 582 feet during the year, and had reached at the end of December a total length of 600 feet from the root.

Survey Department.

14. The lots sold during the year numbered 2,844, containing in extent 28,543 acres, and realised a sum of Rs. 1,410,615, a far larger amount than has been realised in any preceding year. This sum is the proceeds of all the lands actually sold within the year, and is exceeded by the amount appearing above under the heading

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"land sales" for the reasons stated in the Revenue Section. To this should be added the amount recovered on account of survey fees and tracings Rs. 75,087. Certificates were given also for 2,321 lots containing 3,978 acres to claimants who established their right to them as against the Crown. The gross expenditure of the Department amounted to Rs. 353,319, and if from this is deducted the cost of Chena surveys, irrigation surveys, surveys made in connexion with railway extension, and other unproductive work undertaken by the Department, the cost of surveying lands during the year for sale and settlement is reduced to Rs. 275,905; of the lands sold, Europeans purchased 242 lots containing 15,385 acres for Rs. 1,040,772, or an average of Rs. 67 64 an acre, and natives purchased 4,923 lots containing 17,135 acres for Rs. 440,090 or an average price of Rs. 25 68 an acre. In the following tables will be found the details of the lots alienated in the different Provinces; an abstract of the lands sold to Europeans and to natives; and a return of all lands disposed of during the year.

ABSTRACT showing the NUMBER of LOTS, ACREAGE, PURCHASE AMOUNT and FEES of LAND sold or otherwise alienated from the CROWN in the respective PROVINCES during the Year 1877.

Provinces.	Lots sold and granted at Half Value.					Lots settled on Certificates, Free Grants, &c.			Total Receipts for each Province.
	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average Rate per Acre.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - -	361	13,645 0 38·	990.598 49	72 59	22,620 90	140	234 3 12·	764 50	1,013,983 89
Western - -	624	5,678 2 32·	283,174 0	49 87	12,326 20	1,502	2,477 3 12·	7,955 10	303,455 30
Eastern - -	813	4,395 2 22·	66,548 75	15 13¾	11,671 70	591	961 1 20·50	3,292 60	81,513 5
Southern - -	876	3,765 0 0·41	53,517 16	14 21	8,152 90	5	7 0 11·	25 0	61,695 6
Northern - -	25	10 1 28·	275 25	27 52	72 50	—	—	—	347 75
North-western -	138	1,020 1 29·	16,171 86	15 77	2,443 20	83	297 1 27·	841 50	19,456 56
North Central -	7	27 3 13·	330 0	11 78	81 0	—	—	—	411 00
Temple lands, showing fees due on title plans issued -	—	—	—	—	—	19	1,642 1 24·	1,011 85	—
Fees actually recovered on account of Temple lands title plans -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,119 80
Fees for tracings, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,719 98	3,719 98
Total - -	2,844	28,543 1 2·41	1,410,615 51	49 42	57,368 40	2,340	5,620 3 26·50	17,610 53	1,485,702 39

ABSTRACT of LANDS sold to EUROPEANS and NATIVES in 1877.

Provinces.	Europeans.			Natives.		
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.
Central - - -	161	11,922 2 37	870,819 54	340	1,957 0 33·75	143,165 27
Western - -	33	1,936 0 22	151,119 55	2,093	6,220 1 22	152,335 75
Eastern - - -	27	229 3 33	3,367 0	1,377	5,127 0 9·50	78,145 45
Southern - - -	6	1,256 0 0	14,578 20	875	2,516 0 11·41	47,116 83
Northern - -	—	—	—	25	10 1 28	347 75
North-western - -	15	40 3 24	887 90	206	1,276 3 32	18,568 16
North Central - -	—	—	—	7	27 3 13	411 00
Total - -	242	15,385 2 36	1,040,772 19	4,923	17,135 3 29·66	440,090 24

RETURNS of LANDS sold or otherwise disposed of during the Year 1877.

Provinces.	Crown Lands sold.				Encroachments sold or given at a Valuation.				Granted at Half Value.				Old Grants or Grants made in terms of the Minute of 8th Aug. 1844.			Free Grants or Settlements for Certificates against the Crown.			Total Results of Sales, &c. of each Province during the year 1877.				
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Amount including Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central - -	312	13,385	980,068	21,908	30	218	8,644	586	19	42	1,887	128	—	—	—	140	235	764	501	13,880	990,599	23,386	1,013,985
Western - -	546	5,528	279,300	11,848	—	—	—	—	78	150	3,873	478	1	13	—	1,501	2,464	7,955	2,126	8,156	283,174	20,281	303,455
Eastern - -	491	3,578	53,731	9,089	177	606	12,045	1,843	145	212½	773	740	—	—	—	591	961	3,292	1,404	5,357	66,549	14,964	81,513
Southern - -	455	3,054	41,630	5,965	393	690	11,157	2,103	28	21	730	85	—	—	—	5	7	25	881	3,772	53,517	8,178	61,695
Northern - -	25	10	275	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	10	275	72	347
North-western -	105	871	13,191	2,033	—	—	—	—	33	149	2,981	410	—	—	—	83	297	842	221	1,317	16,172	3,285	19,457
North Central -	7	27	330	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	27	330	81	411
Temple lands showing fees due on the title plans issued - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38,448	38,448
Fees actually recovered on Temple land title plans - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49,125	49,125
Fees for tracings, &c. - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,719	3,719
Total - -	1,941	26,453	1,368,525	50,996	600	1,514	31,846	4,532	303	574	10,244	1,841	1	13	—	2,320	3,964	12,878	5,165	32,519	1,410,616	161,539	1,572,155

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Railway.

15. The length of line open for public traffic was 107½ miles, exclusive of the 3½ miles of line for the carriage of materials for the Colombo Harbour Works, as against 91½ in the preceding year. The additional mileage was gained by the opening of the Coast line from Colombo to Panadure. The receipts are returned by the traffic manager and railway engineer at Rs. 3,641,940, but from this should be deducted a sum of Rs. 25,346 credited to interest, which is a purely fictitious item. The balance, Rs. 3,616,594 represents the total earnings of the railway during the year, and the difference between this and the sum of Rs. 3,616,404 appearing in the general revenue statement as the railway revenue is due to the fact that the receipts during the Christmas holidays in each year are not brought to account till the beginning of the following year, and that the revenue statement is a statement of revenue actually brought to account within the year, while the departmental returns show the amounts actually earned during the year. There is thus an increase in the earnings of Rs. 623,676 over those of 1876. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,075,070. The branch line to Moratua was opened on March 1st, and the extension thence to Panadure on September 1st, the total earnings reached the sum of Rs. 144,878, and the working expenses that of Rs. 103,410, and the profits are equivalent to about 5½ per cent. per annum on the capital cost. It may be confidently anticipated that future years will show even a better return in this branch line.

Legislation.

16. The Ordinances which were passed during the year are enumerated below.

No. 1 provides for the contingent services for the year 1877.

No. 2 amends and consolidates the law relating to notaries.

No. 3 makes final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1875.

No. 4 provides for applying a portion of the surplus revenues of past years to the extension of railway communication.

No. 5 amends the law relating to the registration of titles to land in this Colony.

No. 6 amends the Land Acquisition Ordinance, 1876.

No. 7 regulates and controls Inland Steam Navigation.

No. 8 provides for raising by debentures a sum of 275,000*l.* for the construction of a railway from Kandy to Matale.

No. 9 reduces the minimum rates for railway passenger fares on the railway between Colombo and Panadure and on the railway now in course of construction between Panadure and Kalutara.

No. 10 provides for the more convenient administration in this Colony of the "Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873."

No. 11 makes final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1876.

No. 12 amends the Matale Railway Ordinance, 1877.

No. 13 provides for the prevention of the pollution of streams feeding the reservoir of the Kandy Municipal Waterworks.

No. 14 empowers the trustees of the Sailor's Home in Colombo to raise money for the completion of the building required for the same, and makes provision for the regulation and management in certain respects of the trusts thereof, and for the sale, mortgage, and lease of the property belonging thereto.

No. 15 amends the Ordinances No. 6 of 1847, No. 13 of 1863, No. 8 of 1865, and No. 18 of 1867.

No. 16 amends the law relating to prisons.

No. 17 makes provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1877.

No. 18 amends in certain respects the Ordinances No. 17 of 1869, intituled "An Ordinance for the general regulation of "Customs in the Island of Ceylon," and No. 14 of 1871, intituled "An Ordinance to adjust Customs Duties to the currency of "Rupees and Cents."

No. 19 makes provision for the contingent services for the year 1878.

No. 20 establishes further tolls.

No. 21 applies the Local Board of Health and Improvement Ordinance 1876, to Nuwara Eliya.

No. 22 amends the Ordinance No. 21 of 1873, intituled "An "Ordinance to provide for the collection of the sums due to the "Crown on Plumbago."

No. 23 further amends "The Licensing Ordinance, 1873."

Public Health.

17. The year was unhappily marked by a very heavy mortality in the civil hospitals, owing mainly to the wretched condition in which vast numbers of Malabar immigrants arrived from the famine stricken districts of Southern India. It was further marked by a very fatal outbreak of cholera, which raged with the utmost persistence and virulence in the Northern Province. I am satisfied that every possible effort was made to cope with these two calamities, but the result as shown in the death returns is most distressing. The following extracts from the report of the principal civil medical officer affords a general view of the sanitary history of the year, and the tables appended thereto exhibit the results in detail. I would draw especial attention to the striking difference between the death rates in hospital of the Malabar patients and of those of other races, and to the explanation of this difference by the principal civil medical officer.

"As a general remark, it may be stated that the year 1877 was an unusually unhealthy one. Cholera in an epidemic form broke out in several districts, having been introduced in the first instance from India. In the Northern Province, it continued throughout the entire year; the poverty of the people from a partial failure of the crops, owing to deficient rainfall, and the dirty habits of the poorer classes rendered it impossible to stamp out the disease once it had gained an entrance, and difficult in the extreme to afford medical aid in time from the ignorance of the people in concealing

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disease and failing to report its occurrence, until the cases were beyond recovery.

"Notwithstanding the activity of the Vaccine Department, the employment of a large staff of extra vaccinators, the importation of fresh lymph from England, the isolation of cases as early as possible, and the carrying on of re-vaccination, small-pox, which broke out towards the close of 1876, continued during the whole of 1877, and had not ceased at the close of the year.

"The famine which prevailed so extensively in Southern India was felt also in Ceylon, food became dearer, and large numbers of destitute Malabars left the famine stricken districts and sought an asylum here, arriving in a state of the greatest poverty, without food or money to purchase it, and often conveying the seeds of cholera and small-pox, which they communicated to the Sinhalese and Tamil residents.

"Many of these unfortunate creatures came voluntarily to hospital after wandering about the country in search of employment, but large numbers were carried in by the police, having been picked up on the road side in such a state of debility that they were beyond recovery, they either died from actual privation, being unable to assimilate food, or after lingering a few days were carried off by diarrhœa, dysentery, or general dropsy.

"The floods, which periodically cause such misery to the people living in the country drained by the rivers Kelani and Kalu Ganga, are attended after the waters have subsided by the occurrence of epidemics of fever, not actually dangerous to life, but highly detrimental to the health of the people from the debility which ensues, and which incapacitates the sufferers so that they are unable to work and earn a living.

"The fever is as a rule of an intermittent type, rarely remittent, and the sequels are debility, anæmia, enlarged spleen, diarrhœa, dysentery, jaundice, and in delicate constitutions general dropsy.

"The cause of this fever is no doubt the large quantity of decaying organic matter which, carried down by the water, is left exposed to the influence of the sun, the exhalations from which poison the atmosphere and the drinking water.

"The want of a sufficient quantity of wholesome food, arising from destruction of crops and from the absence of employment, renders the villagers easy victims to malarial influences.

"During the year extensive outbreaks of this fever occurred in the Western Province, particularly in the Negombo district, it commenced in May and lasted till November.

"The total number of attacks was 8,266. The Colonial surgeon visited the district upon several occasions, and under his supervision two senior medical students were employed to visit the sick and distribute fever powders.

"Epidemics of intermittent fever also occurred in the Kaigalle district, it commenced at the end of March in the three Korales, and continued till the end of May.

"Although large numbers of the population were attacked, the mortality was slight.

"As in previous years, malarial fevers prevailed extensively in

the Kurnegala and Puttalam districts, and also from Avisawela to Ratnapura, after the subsidence of the floods which annually occur in these low lying ill drained marshy lands.

"The other provinces were free during the year from epidemics of either fever or dysentery. The Colonial surgeon, Southern Province, reports that only a few cases of these diseases occurred, and that they were of no consequence compared with the epidemic of cholera.

"Dr. Loos confines his remarks to cholera and small-pox, and reports on no other epidemic.

"The total number of cases treated in the Government civil hospitals of the Island amounted to 22,356, and the number of deaths to 3,555, or 15·9 per cent. of the cases died, showing an increase of 5,351 cases and 1,843 deaths over the figures of 1876.

"The admissions were more than double those of the years 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, and 1872, and the deaths more than double those of any previous year.

"The following table gives the number treated, and the numbers of deaths with the per-centage of deaths to cases for the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to each Case.
1868	10,145	1,630	16·06
1869	7,890	1,077	13·65
1870	8,388	941	11·21
1871	8,916	962	10·78
1872	11,117	1,336	12·01
1873	12,553	1,279	10·18
1874	14,047	1,454	10·35
1875	14,258	1,546	10·84
1876	17,005	1,712	10·06
1877	22,356	3,555	15·09

"Whilst I maintain that the progressive increase in the number treated is attributable to an advancing estimation of our hospital practice by the natives, I must state that the rapid and sudden rise in the past year is mainly due to the influx of an enormous number of destitute Malabars from the famine stricken districts of Southern India, with constitutions so sickly and debilitated that they were beyond recovery.

"Most of these refugees, as I have previously stated, arrived in the Colony without provisions or the means to purchase them, and when admitted into our hospitals were suffering from famine, diarrhœa, and were in such a state of emaciation that their vitality was reduced so low that medicines, medical comforts, and the most careful nursing could only alleviate their condition.

"Besides these, a large number of destitute and sickly immigrants, coolies who had once been on estates and were returning to the continent, have heavily contributed to the large number of admissions, and to the high rate of mortality.

"In the Appendix will be found an instructive return headed "'Return separating the cases treated in hospitals into mixed races "'and Malabars,' which divides the numbers remaining at the

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beginning of the year, the numbers "admitted" during the year, the total "cases treated," the "deaths," the "discharges," the number remaining in hospital at the end of the year, and the per-centage of deaths to cases treated in the two classes; it will show in addition the principal causes of deaths.

"In the general hospital, Colombo, 664 deaths have occurred out of a total of 3,602 treated, giving a death rate of 18·43 per cent. The largest number of deaths occurred under the heads diarrhœa, privation, and dysentery, and separating the cases into mixed races and Malabars, the mortality has been 11·79 per cent. among the former, whilst amongst the latter it has been 23·35.

"Dr. Morgan who was last year in charge of the medical cases in this hospital states, in explanation of the high death rate, that 'owing to the famine in India, the number of immigrants in 'Ceylon during the year was unusually large. In the absence 'of an almshouse, a large number of Malabars picked up by the 'police in the streets was sent into hospital from time to time, 'either in a starving condition or suffering from bowel complaint.'

"In the Government Civil Hospital at Kandy the death rate has been 21·63 per cent. of cases, 755 having died out of 3,489 treated.

"Dividing the cases into mixed races and Malabars, I find that of 1,401 cases among the former 92 died, the ratio being 6·56, whilst of 2,088 of the latter 663 proved fatal, giving a death rate of 31·75 per cent.

"In his report on this hospital for 1877, Dr. Dias makes the following observation relative to the large increase in the number of cases and deaths.

"The great increase in the numbers treated, was solely due to an influx of Malabars. Of the Malabars the great majority were estate labourers, most of whom were outgoing.

"The previous history given in these cases was that they were in a state of semi-starvation in India, and were brought out to work on coffee estates; some few got sick on their way to the estates, and were abandoned on the road. The greater number were found on reaching the estate, either unfit for work, or after working for a time were taken ill and were sent away. These begged their way to the hospital, or were found lying helpless on the roads and were brought in by the police.

"The mortality this year has been 21·63 per cent., being higher than the average of the previous nine years by 8·16. This increase of mortality was due to the increased numbers of moribund and semi-moribund Malabars admitted, as well as to the great number of Malabars admitted being in such a state of emaciation and anæmia, that their vital powers were not capable of responding to any treatment, their digestive organs along with the rest being degenerated, and the secretion vitiated to such an extent, that the blandest and most nourishing food was neither digested nor absorbed. These Malabars were the sufferers in the last great Madras Famine.

"The following are the returns referred to in the preceding section:—

Return separating the Cases in the Government Civil Hospitals into Mixed Races and Malabars.

Name of Hospital.	Average daily Number of Sick.		Remained.		Admitted into Hospital during the Month.		Total Number of Cases treated.		Died.		Discharge.		Remaining under treatment.		Per-centage of Deaths to Total No. of Cases treated.	Per-centage of Deaths to Cases treated amongst		Principal Causes of Death.						
	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.		Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Anasarca or General Dropsy.	Privation.	General Debility.	Fevers.	Other Diseases.
Lunatic Asylum, Colombo	2·70	63	201	65	79	45	280	110	48	20	34	15	206	67	17·43	17·14	18·8	—	28	8	4	—	13	2	13
Merchant Seamen's Hospital	5·22	—	—	—	85	—	85	—	5	—	75	—	5	—	5·88	5·88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
General Hospital, Colombo	49·34	116·46	33	62	1,501	2,006	1,534	2,068	181	483	821	1,958	61	98	18·43	11·79	23·35	—	252	93	35	102	4	14	164
Leper Hospital, Hendella	93·99	13·01	73	23	72	18	145	41	19	3	47	16	79	22	11·82	13·1	7·31	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	21
Police Hospital, Maradana	7	—	7	—	440	—	447	—	2	—	442	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Civil Hospital, Panadure	7·14	5·62	3	2	138	69	141	71	12	2	126	63	3	6	6·6	8·51	2·81	—	2	1	1	—	—	3	7
Temporary Hospital Kalutara	·5	6·	10	2	91	42	101	44	7	9	92	30	2	5	11·01	6·9	20·4	—	5	1	2	—	—	1	7
Civil Hospital, Kegalla	11·75	13·32	7	9	252	285	259	294	19	43	230	236	10	15	11·21	7·33	14·62	—	17	20	8	—	—	3	14
„ „ Ratnapura	7·45	28·85	4	8	213	678	217	686	29	158	177	495	11	33	20·17	13·36	23·03	16	125	18	5	—	3	2	18
„ „ Negombo	46·26	39·08	46	21	652	672	698	693	37	61	613	588	48	44	7·04	5·3	8·8	—	21	17	10	—	2	4	44
„ „ Kuruvegala	·83	48·	69	9	1,110	467	1,179	476	101	77	1,016	371	62	28	10·75	8·56	16·17	—	106	15	9	1	2	3	42
„ „ Puttalam	9·16	29·12	24	12	177	400	201	412	5	32	189	359	7	21	6·03	2·48	7·76	—	7	7	3	—	2	6	12
„ „ Chilaw	15·23	·38	21	—	134	17	155	17	6	1	126	9	23	7	4·06	3·87	5·58	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
„ „ Galle	65·	13·	50	4	1,305	218	1,355	222	95	26	1,198	180	62	16	7·67	7·01	11·71	—	45	1	26	—	8	1	40
„ „ Matara	21·18	20·19	5	5	323	431	328	436	34	39	271	389	23	8	9·55	10·36	8·94	13	11	5	10	—	4	8	22
„ „ Hambanbota	6·57	2·68	7	—	122	75	129	75	3	5	124	59	3	10	3·92	2·32	6·66	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	3
„ „ Tangalle	7·63	·91	—	—	111	15	111	15	—	—	99	15	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ Trincomalie	3·74	18·49	2	18	74	315	76	333	4	22	71	283	1	28	6·35	5·26	6·6	—	1	—	1	—	—	4	20
„ „ Batticaloa	10·7	16·3	15	13	193	229	208	242	4	12	189	217	15	13	3·55	1·92	4·95	—	5	3	2	—	—	—	6
„ „ Mullaittivu	35·20	1·55	23	2	311	9	334	11	8	1	271	10	55	—	2·6	2·39	9·09	—	2	4	2	—	—	—	1
„ „ Vavonia Velankular	16·38	2·76	12	—	268	65	280	65	19	4	245	59	16	2	6·6	6·78	6·15	—	1	8	1	—	—	4	9
„ „ Kandy	154	·95	84	60	1,317	2,028	1,401	2,088	92	663	1,248	1,247	61	178	21·63	6·56	31·75	—	436	100	17	—	111	3	88
„ „ Gampola	21·23	43·10	12	19	522	1,133	534	1,152	62	365	461	750	11	37	25·32	11·61	31·68	41	127	178	5	—	16	—	60
„ „ Badulla	35	21	11	36	427	447	438	483	36	140	393	317	9	26	19·1	8·21	28·98	—	102	35	4	—	10	2	14
„ „ Matale	37	48	11	18	269	1,014	280	1,032	54	427	219	559	7	46	36·66	19·28	41·37	13	254	79	3	—	99	3	30
„ „ Numara Klujo	13	42	2·	2·	91·	199	93	201	11	69·	77	115	5	17	27·21	11·82	34·32	2	3	24	3	—	21	4	23

CEYLON.

RETURN of CASES of CHOLERA that have been reported in the several DISTRICTS of CEYLON from 1st January to 31st December 1877.

Province.	Station.	Remained, 31st Dec. 1876.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining, 31st Dec. 1877.	Per-centage of Deaths to Number of Cases.
Western	Cholera hospitals, Colombo	5	183	188	89	99	—	52·65
	Colombo*	—	161	161	21	140	—	86·95
	Panadure	—	41	41	9	32	—	78·04
	Kalutara	—	8	8	1	7	—	87·5
	Ratnapura	—	42	42	9	33	—	78·57
	Balungoda District	—	2	2	—	2	—	100·
	Negombo	—	28	28	9	19	—	67·85
	Hendsla	—	2	2	—	2	—	100·
	Total	5	467	472	138	334	—	70·76
North-western	Kurunegala District	—	162	162	65	97	—	59·87
	Puttalam District	—	33	33	10	23	—	69·69
	Chilaw	—	35	35	21	14	—	40·
	Kalpitiya	—	26	26	10	16	—	61·53
	Total	—	256	256	106	150	—	59·83
Southern	Galle	—	18	18	2	16	—	88·88
	Matara District	2	498	500	86	414	—	82·8
	Hambantota	—	21	21	9	12	—	57·14
	Tangalla	—	62	62	10	52	—	83·86
	Total	2	599	601	107	494	—	82·19
Northern	Jaffna District	74	16,086	16,160	7,664	8,317	179	51·46
	Mannar District	—	157	157	62	95	—	60·50
	Sillvaturai	—	25	25	9	16	—	64·
	Pesale and Vankalai	19	1,002	1,021	567	451	3	44·17
	Mannar Madawachihi Road	3	1,013	1,016	469	547	—	53·83
	Vavonia Vilan Kulam	—	24	24	11	13	—	54·16
	Mullaitivu	—	551	551	240	311	—	56·44
	Ambamam	—	21	21	16	5	—	23·80
	Kanagarayan Kulam	—	12	12	8	4	—	33·33
	Total	96	18,891	18,987	9,046	9,759	182	51·39
Eastern	Trincomalu District	—	331	331	89	242	—	73·11
	Batticalva District	—	180	180	99	71	10	39·44
	Total	—	511	511	188	313	10	61·25
Central	Matale District	—	97	97	38	59	—	60·82
	Dambulla	1	394	395	212	183	—	46·32
	Gampola	—	58	58	17	41	—	70·68
	Nuwera Eliya	—	6	6	—	6	—	100·
	Kandy District	—	79	79	31	48	—	60·75
	Badulla	—	55	55	14	41	—	74·54
	Total	1	689	690	312	378	—	54·78
North Central	Anuradhapura	1	555	556	314	242	—	43·52
	Mehintale District	3	510	513	220	293	—	57·11
	Total	4	1,065	1,069	534	535	—	50·04
	Grand total	108	22,478	22,586	10,431	11,963	192	52·96
	Total in 1876	75	4,120	4,195	1,630	2,457	108	58·56

* Cases reported by the sanitary officer, Municipal Council.

Education.

18. The amount expended on education in 1877 was Rs. 397,118, or Rs. 16,204 in excess of the expenditure for 1876. 36 new Government schools were opened and 8 closed during the year; the number on 31st December being 329, attended by 15,677 pupils, being an increase of 562 over the attendance for the previous year. 59 new grant-in-aid schools were registered, and 26 old schools were closed or fell below the requirements of the Code; the number presented for grants during the year being 730, with an attendance of 47,142 pupils as against 697 with an attendance of 45,422 pupils in 1876.

The classification of the Government schools, with the number of pupils and the daily average attendance, is shown in the following table: —

Class of Schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.	Average daily Attendance.
English boys' school - - -	13	998	872
Anglo-vernacular boys' school - -	30	1,586	1,191
Vernacular boys' school - -	239	11,189	7,263
English girls' school - - -	5	324	251
Anglo-vernacular girls' school - -	7	159	112
Vernacular girls' school - -	35	1,421	899

The cost of the education in the several classes of schools was as follows:—

	Cost per head to Government. Rs. cts.
English boys' school - - -	53 89
Anglo-vernacular boys' school - -	13 34
Vernacular boys' school - - -	7 12
English girls' school - - -	53 42
Anglo-vernacular girls' school - -	25 47
Vernacular girls' school - - -	6 53

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The annexed tables exhibit a classification of the grants-in-aid paid by Government and the amounts earned by the several missions and by private managers during the year.

—	Number of Schools.	Number of Children examined.	Total Number of Children on List.	Amount of Grant.	Average per head of Children examined.	Average per head of total Number in the School.
				Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
English schools -	59	3,399	5,784	36,104 17	10 62	6 24
Anglo-vernacular -	69	—	4,124	12,397 80	6 32	3 0
Vernacular - -	572	15,493	36,095	86,706 40	5 59	2 40

——	English.	Anglo-vernacular.	Vernacular.	C.	Total.	Amount of Grants.
						Rs. cts.
American - -	1	12	111	7	131	22,709 95
Baptist - -	1	7	21	0	29	3,985 15
Church of England, C.M.S. - -	6	25	111	11	153	21,284 39
Church of England, S.P.G. - -	13	6	43	7	69	13,099 57
Presbyterian -	1	0	2	0	3	830 70
Private - -	3	2	20	0	25	6,942 85
Roman Catholic -	21	3	146	1	171	43,349 50
Wesleyan - -	13	14	118	4	149	25,155 79
Total -	59	69	572	30	730	137,357 90

19. Prefixed to the Blue Book Returns will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony for the years 1821 to 1877 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1876 and 1877.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, M.P., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

No. 14.

Lieut.-General Sir A. PHAYRE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Mauritius, August 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1877, together with my report thereon.

2. I also enclose the report on crime for the year 1877, dated the 16th of last month, by the Procureur General. The remark therein as to the cause of a large proportion of failures in prosecutions has attracted my attention, and the Procureur General has been requested to adopt measures for ensuring greater care in the preparation of cases brought before the magistrates' courts.

3. The report on the Blue Book of the Seychelles by the Chief Civil Commissioner of that Dependency is also enclosed.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) A. P. PHAYRE.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1877.

Taxation.

1. The alterations of taxes, duties, and fees during 1877 were as follows:—

2. Ordinance No. 15 of 1877 reduced to a uniform tariff the various rates of poundage previously leviable on animals impounded.

3. By Ordinance No. 19 of 1877 all duties, taxes, and fees payable either to or by the Government of the Colony, and which, by the laws until then passed, had been expressed in terms of British currency, were regulated and fixed in rupees and cents.

4. With the object of facilitating the cultivation of tobacco in the Colony, the tax of Rs. 160 per arpent, which, under Ordinance No. 30 of 1867, was payable in advance on land cultivated in tobacco, was made payable by quarterly instalments of Rs. 40 each. This change was effected by Ordinance No. 21 of 1877, which besides allowed a drawback of 6 cents of a rupee per

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pound to be paid on all tobacco grown in the Colony and exported.

5. By Ordinance No. 22 of 1877 the excise duty on Colonial spirits issued for home consumption was raised from Rs. 3 · 85 to Rs. 4 · 40 per imperial gallon of 23 degrees of strength according to Cartier's areometer.

It was further provided that on the coming into force of the metric system of weights and measures, the duty would be Rs. 9 · 60 per decalitre of the above-mentioned strength, which is exactly equivalent to the customs duty charged on imported spirits.

6. A tariff of cemetery charges, framed and proposed by the General Board of Health, was brought into operation on the 24th February 1877.

7. Additional regulations passed by the General Board of Health, establishing rates to be charged on greengrocers, fruiterers, and fishmongers in the markets of the rural districts, were brought into force on the 21st March 1877.

8. The inland money order system was extended, and the rates chargeable on inland money orders were adjusted, by Government Notice No. 22 of the 15th February 1877.

9. The rates of commission chargeable on post office money orders drawn in Mauritius or the Seychelles upon the United Kingdom were re-adjusted by Government Notice No. 48 of the 17th April 1877.

10. The rates of commission chargeable on post office money orders between Mauritius and the Seychelles were altered by Government Notice No. 65 of the 22nd May 1877.

11. The postal tariff was altered on the 17th April 1877. The general postal union rates were then made leviable on correspondence and newspapers addressed to countries which had joined the union, and a different postal tariff was promulgated in reference to countries which had not assented to the conditions of the union.

The tariff on "non-union rates" was three times amended (on the 16th June 1877, the 4th October 1877, and 5th December 1877) in consequence of new admissions to the union.

By the tariff brought into operation on the 5th December 1877 the rate chargeable on correspondence addressed to Réunion was reduced from 6*d.* to 3*d.* per half ounce, the distance of Réunion from Mauritius being less than 300 nautical miles.

12. The union and non-union rates of postage as they stood after the above modifications are given in the Blue Book.

13. Reference to the other changes in taxes, duties, and fees which are above noticed has been accidentally omitted in the compilation of the section of the Blue Book under this heading, though the respective Ordinances are enumerated under the heading of "Legislation."

Receipts and Expenditure.

14. The following table shows the receipts for the two past years omitting fractions. The receipts on account of the Seychelles Islands are not included:—

Heads of Receipts.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£
1. Customs - - -	211,040	241,529	259,762
2. Harbour dues - - -	22,352	25,103	26,300
3. Land sales - - -	4,846	766	482
4. Land revenue - - -	3,727	4,229	4,373
5. Rent, exclusive of land -	472	1,013	687
6. Transfer, registration, and mortgage dues - -	24,107	26,227	21,591
7. Licenses and permits - -	168,712	197,188	182,687
8. Stamps - - -	9,902	11,060	10,760
9. Taxes - - - -	13,261	13,271	14,674
10. Postage - - -	5,269	5,468	6,019
11. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - - -	13,798	12,629	11,156
12. Fees of office - - -	7,619	5,467	5,418
13. Forests* - - -	- - -	332	1,689
14. Sale of Government property -	1,709	4,964	4,745
15. Reimbursements - -	21,417	15,654	23,786
16. Miscellaneous receipts	5,105	12,174	14,629
17. Interest - -	19,900	20,689	14,316
18. Special receipts - -	284	125	726
19. Boards of Health† - -	50	1,738	2,676
20. Railway traffic - -	100,896	132,480	140,870
21. Rodrigues‡ - - -	- - -	- - -	713
Total - -	634,466	732,106	748,059

The rate of revenue per head of population in 1877 was 2*l.* 2*s.* 10¾*d.*, against 2*l.* 2*s.* 3¾*d.* in 1876.

15. The increase in receipts has arisen chiefly from customs consequent on the greater importation of articles of general consumption. There was also an augmentation in railway traffic.

* Returned separately for the first time in 1876.
† Returned separately for the first time in 1874.
‡ Returned separately for the first time in 1877.

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16. The expenditure for the two last years is shown in the following table :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£
1. Establishments, fixed and temporary, with allowances	233,402	221,624	219,785
2. Pensions	14,711	14,105	14,846
3. Harbours, coast services, &c.*	-	-	7,928
4. Revenue services	9,692	7,851	1,051
5. Administration of justice	8,402	8,060	8,590
6. Ecclesiastical	2,453	4,257	2,875
7. Charitable allowances	140	194	171
8. Education	5,770	6,450	7,754
9. Hospitals	9,594	6,413	4,438
10. Police and gaols	6,375	6,132†	6,123
11. Gaols‡	-	406	502
12. Rent	5,731	6,240	6,119
13. Transport	2,695	7,282	7,327
14. Mails	12,966	5,401	5,373
15. Works and buildings	16,643	11,339	29,419
16. Roads and bridges	14,905	14,678	17,375
17. Forests§	-	—	349
18. Miscellaneous services	23,951	16,245	29,109
19. Interest	14,766	33,713	30,780
20. Civil stores	29,949	21,802	31,472
21. Military contribution	30,412	22,385	13,800
22. Quays, &c.‖	12,790	9,321	—
23. Immigration	12,861	3,039	4,192
24. Drawback and refund of duties	5,871	2,238	935
25. Quarantine	556	526	981
26. Debenture debt	83,901	126,373	98,607
27. Railway working department	84,709	92,503	83,186
28. General Board of Health¶	6,490	34,736	36,578
29. Poor Law Department**	2,932	36,226	33,897
30. Rodrigues††	-	-	46
Total	652,667	719,539	703,608

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1877 was 2*l.* 0*s.* 4¼*d.*, against 2*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* in 1876.

17. The expenditure has been somewhat reduced during the year, although that on public works was considerably larger than in 1876.

Local Revenues.

18. The actual revenue of the municipal corporation of Port Louis during 1877 amounted to Rs. 390,073.

* This item was, until 1877, merged with item "Revenue services."
† Exclusive of gaols.
‡ Returned separately in 1876.
§ This item figures for the first time in 1877.
‖ This item in 1877 is included in "Miscellaneons services."
¶ Returned separately in 1874.
** Returned separately in 1875.
†† This item figures for the first time in 1877.

The actual expenditure to Rs. 387,353.

The average revenue during the preceding five years amounted to Rs. 398,586.

The average expenditure during the same period to Rs. 388,468.

19. The total debt of the corporation amounted to Rs.1,333,559. Comprised in the said debt there was an amount of Rs. 1,299,000 due on debentures issued by the corporation and redeemable as follows:—

	Rs.		Rs.
1881 - -	80,800	1887 - -	107,600
1884 - -	218,400	1888 - -	302,000
1885 - -	367,000	1889 - -	92,400
1886 - -	130,800		

20. The corporation holds a sinking fund, which amounted to Rs. 144,200 at the end of 1877. This sinking fund is provided for by amounts set aside annually. The amounts to be so set aside are not regulated by law, but are at the discretion of the corporation. During 1877 Rs. 40,000 were paid into the sinking fund from the general revenue of the corporation.

21. Further loans will, it is clear, have to be raised by the corporation, on the security of their revenues, for the liquidation of the present debenture debt as the heavier instalments fall due.

Assets and Liabilities.

(*a.*) *Commissioners of Currency.*

22. Under Ordinance No. 28 of 1876, which legalised the issue of currency notes for amounts expressed in rupees, the Commissioners of Currency had, at the end of 1877, issued notes amounting to the value of Rs. 2,959,250.

They then held a specie revenue which amounted to Rs. 1,502,250. And they had remitted to England, for investment in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Ordinance, 130,997*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

(*b.*) *Savings Bank.*

23. The total amount due to depositors at the end of 1877 (including interest for the year) was Rs. 2,451,415.

The assets of the bank were as follows:—

	Rs.
1. Invested in mortgages on real property in the Colony - - - - -	123,800
2. Invested in mortgages in England - -	702,219
3. In local banks - - - -	1,615,609
4. In hands of district cashiers - - -	9,787
	2,451,415

(c.) Curatelle.

24. The liabilities of the Curatelle (including interest for 1877) amounted to Rs. 179,800.

The assets consisted of an amount of Rs. 62,774 invested in mortgages on real property in the Colony, and of cash deposits in the local banks amounting to Rs. 116,306.

(d.) Treasury proper.

25. At the close of the year 1877 the assets of the Treasury proper (excluding the Railway Debt) showed an excess over its liabilities amounting to Rs. 781,449.

At the end of 1876 the excess of its assets over its liabilities was only Rs. 432,307.

The railway debts, including the amount borrowed for the construction of the Savanne Railway, amounted to Rs. 10,000,000.

Of this amount Rs. 3,000,000 had to be paid off on the 1st of July 1878 ; towards the payment of this instalment a sinking fund had been accumulated amounting fully to the sum necessary.

Military Expenditure.

26. The contribution towards military expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 138,000. The number of troops in the Colony on the 31st December was :—

Staff, including officers, medical department, and Royal Engineers - - - -	26
Artillery, officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners - - - - -	114
Infantry, officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates - - - -	318
Total - -	458

Criminal Justice.

27. The number of offences which came under the notice of the police or magistrates was less than in any of the three preceding years :—

——	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Offences known to police or magistrates -	44,306	44,244	35,003	32,371

This diminution arises from a large decrease in the number of offences brought before the stipendiary magistrates, caused by the repeal of certain provisions of the Pass Laws, and by the police having been ordered not to prosecute certain minor contraventions of those laws.

28. The total number of persons prosecuted shows also a large decrease on 1876.

——	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Persons prosecuted -	32,877	35,707	34,194	28,016

29. The disproportion between the number of offences known to have been committed and the number of persons brought to justice shows unfavourably for last year as compared with 1876, but is still a great improvement on the years 1874 and 1875.

——	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Offences - -	44,306	44,244	35,003	32,371
Persons prosecuted -	32,877	35,707	34,194	28,016
Difference -	11,429	8,537	809	4,355

30. The following table shows the number of persons brought before the several courts of the Colony during the year, with the results:—

——	Number prosecuted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.
Supreme court - - - -	84	20	64
District courts - - - -	19,934	6,734	13,200
Stipendiary courts - - -	7,995	2,379	5,616
Total - - -	28,013	9,133	18,880

31. The following table shows in broad classification the offences tried in the district courts in 1877, with the results obtained:—

——	Assault and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
Convictions -	820	30	653	1,046	10,651
Acquittals - -	1,527	28	341	1,497	3,341
Total - -	2,347	58	994	2,543	13,992

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The number of persons tried before the district courts was rather greater than in 1876, and the proportion of convictions rather lower; but the year compares favourably with 1874 and 1875.

32. Six cases of murder, and two attempts at murder, were tried at the assizes during the year. Seven of the cases resulted in a judgment for the Crown. Seven persons were sentenced to death, five of whom suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Among the cases of attempt at murder was a very aggravated assault upon the keeper of the Port Louis Prison. A very gross case of murder occurred at the gaol at the lunatic asylum works at Beau Bassin. A prisoner murdered his guard for no other motive, as it would seem, than that the guard had a day or two before taken away a piece of tobacco from the prisoner.

Government Reformatory.

33. The number of boys actually present at the reformatory on the 31st December 1877 was 126, against 140 present on the last day of the previous year. Under provision of Ordinance No. 12 of 1877 these boys are divided into two classes according to the nature of the offences of which they have been convicted. There were, on 31st December, 59 boys in the first class and 67 in the second class.

34. The daily average number of boys present at the reformatory during the past year was 135, against 159 in 1876.

Out of the 49 boys received into the reformatory in 1877, 10 had been convicted once before and 6 twice. Their races were:—

Indians - - -	26
Creoles - - -	23
	49

35. Eleven boys deserted during 1877; nine of them were recaptured.

36. The net expenditure on account of the institution during 1877 was Rs. 17,649, against Rs. 17,840 in 1876. The buildings and repairs are not included. The estimated value of the boys' labour and the sums realised from sale of articles made amounted to Rs. 5,474. This result compares unfavourably with that of the previous year, when the total amount was Rs. 9,950.

37. The sanitary condition of the inmates of the institution has been comparatively good throughout the year. The mortality for the year (5) gives an average death-rate of 3·70 per cent., against 5·03 in 1876.

Education.

38. The following table shows the number of pupils on the rolls in Government elementary schools, with the average attendance at each during the past three years:—

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage attending as compared with Numbers on Roll.
1875 - -	5,452	3,452	63·31
1876 - -	5,358	3,403	63·51
1877 - -	5,138	3,183	61·95

In 1877, of those on the rolls there were:—

Boys - - - -	3,907
Girls - - - -	1,231

39. The number of pupils examined to be graded in the Government schools in the six fixed standards of reading, writing, and arithmetic was 2,742, against 2,859 in 1876. The remaining pupils on roll, from various causes, were not examined.

2,367 passed in reading.
1,977 „ writing.
2,028 „ arithmetic.

40. The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, in Government schools was 1,602, against 1,866 in the previous year; of these there were:—

Boys - - - - -	1,457
Girls - - - - -	145

Of the 1,602 pupils, 359 were Mahomedans and 1,040 Hindoos.

41. The total expenditure on Government schools for 1877, including rent for houses and all other charges, except books and stationery, and general superintendence, fees deducted, was Rs. 121,781.

The total amount of fees received during 1877 was Rs. 4,552.

42. The average cost of each pupil to Government, deducting the amount of fees received, according to the average number on roll (5,138), was Rs. 23 . 70, but according to the average attendance (3,183) it amounted to Rs. 38 . 26.

Grant-in-Aid Schools.

43. The number of schools receiving grants from Government during the year was:—

Roman Catholic - - -	36
Church of England - - -	13
Independent - - - -	2
	51

44. The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools, and their average attendance during the past three years, is exhibited in the following table :—

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage attending as compared with Numbers on Roll.
1875 - -	3,156	1,986	62·92
1876 - -	3,396	2,279	67·10
1877 - -	3,624	2,425	66·91

45. The total amount provided for this class of schools for the year was Rs. 40,000; Rs. 33,371 were expended on the 51 schools. In these schools the average cost to Government for the year of each pupil according to the average number on roll (3,624) was Rs. 9 20; but according to the average attendance (2,425) it was Rs. 13 76.

46. The grade tests have been applied during the year to 50 of the aided schools. The number of pupils who were examined to be graded in the three subjects of instruction was 2,046, against 1,907 in the previous year :—

1,632 passed in reading.
1,735 „ writing.
1,442 „ arithmetic.

47. The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, attending grant-in-aid schools was :—

Boys - - - - - 730
Girls - - - - - 197

Of these 106 were Mahomedans and 567 were Hindoos.

48. It is satisfactory to notice that 1,040 pupils who left Government and grant-in-aid schools in 1877 are known to be following honest occupations.

Normal Schools.

49. During 1877 the number of teachers trained was 17, 14 males and 3 females.

Railways.

50. The receipts and expenses for the two last years are given in the following table :—

	1877.	1876.
	£	£
Receipts - - - - -	1,408,697	1,324,803
Working and contingent expenses - -	831,855	925,031
Surplus - - -	576,842	399,772
Per-centage of expenditure to receipts -	59·05	69·82

51. The first section of the Savanne Branch was open throughout the year. The actual receipts of the branch line during the year have been Rs. 84,041.

52. There was an increase in the total receipts of 6·33 per cent., and a decrease in the expenditure of 10·07 per cent., as compared with 1876.

53. The number of passengers increased by 84,442 when compared with 1876.

54. In general goods traffic there was an increase both in the merchandise and sugar conveyed by rail, as is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Tons of general Goods.	Tons of Sugar.
1876 - -	113,106	78,949
1877 - -	130,201	82,644
Increase -	17,095	3,695

Post Office.

55. The total revenue collected in the Post Office department, including the amount to be accounted for to the Imperial Post Office, amounted to Rs. 82,935. In 1876 the total collections were Rs. 88,087, Rs. 5,152 more than in 1877. This decrease is chiefly attributable to the lower rates charged under the Postal Union Tariff. The decrease includes a reduction of Rs. 474 in the commission levied on money orders. The assets realised thereby were:—

	Rs.
1876 - - - -	7,645
1877 - - - -	7,171
Decrease - - -	474

56. The numbers of letters and newspapers received and despatched by mail packets were larger in 1877 than in the previous year:—

	Letters.	Newspapers.
1876 - -	146,652	153,685
1877 - -	165,602	194,025
Increase -	18,950	40,340

MAURITIUS.

57. The numbers of letters and newspapers received and despatched by private ship also show increase:—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1876 - -	28,884	26,424
1877 - -	31,768	30,666
Increase -	2,884	4,242

58. An increase of business is likewise shown in the returns relative to the district post offices:—

RECEIVED.

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1876 - -	106,956	3,073
1877 - -	115,566	4,158
Increase -	8,610	1,085

DESPATCHED.

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1876 - -	129,724	334,469
1877 - -	137,863	342,579
Increase -	8,139	8,110

59. The cost of the establishment of the Post Office, including allowances and contingencies, was Rs. 38,561; Rs. 2,423 more than in 1876.

60. The total expenditure of the Department, including the subsidy of Rs. 40,000 paid to the Messageries Maritimes, and Rs. 12,000 to the railway department for the conveyance of inland mails,

	Rs.
Amounted to - - -	102,496
The total expenditure in 1876 was -	91,072
Increase - - -	11,424

But the telegraph branch, which in 1876 had been attached to the railway department, was transferred to the Post Office since

the beginning of 1877. Hence arose a large portion of the additional expenditure:—

	Rs.
Telegraph establishment - -	6,643
Postage for telegrams - -	2,023
Total - - -	8,666

Telegraph.

61. The total number of telegraphic messages during—

1877 was - - - -	134,693
In 1876 - - - -	112,892
Increase - -	21,801

62. The following figures show in detail what the messages were, and the increase or decrease in each branch:—

	1876.	1877.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1.) Connected with the railway service - -	95,815	123,588
(2.) Connected with the telegraph service - -	8,622	2,122
(3.) For Government departments - - -	1,130	1,174
(4.) Paid messages - - - - -	7,235	7,809

63. The receipts in cash were as follows:—

	Rs.
For messages - - -	4,448
„ porterage - - -	2,739
Total - - -	7,187

In 1876 the cash receipts, including porterage, only amounted to Rs. 4,660.

64. The value of messages (including porterage) sent by Government Departments was as follows:—

	Rs.
1876 - - - -	1,660
1877 - - - -	1,338
Decrease - -	322

65. The cost of the staff attached to this branch of the Post Office amounted in 1877 to Rs. 6,643. The revenue of the branch (exclusive of porterage) was as follows:—

	Rs.
Paid messages - - -	4,448
Value of Government messages -	749
Total - -	5,197

MAURITIUS.

Public Works.

66. No new building of importance was commenced. Various buildings, forming part of a central lunatic asylum, many of which were commenced in 1876, were completed in 1877. The total expenditure on this establishment, including that of former years, had been, up to the 31st December, Rs. 220,844.

67. The expenditure on roads was, as in the previous year, principally on account of repairs. About 234 miles of road have been kept up. Three new bridges have been constructed. The surveying of all Crown lands was continued, and the boundaries were marked out. A map of the district of Flacq on a scale of one inch to the mile was published during the year.

68. The branch railway to Souillac, 10 miles in length, was completed, and the line was opened for traffic on the 1st of January 1878. A survey was made for a branch line, 9½ miles in length, through the district of Moka.

69. The expenditure of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 500,688, and it may be thus apportioned :—

Works and Buildings.

	Rs.	Rs.
New works, continuation, and completion of those in progress -	248,532	
Repairs and maintenance - -	63,080	
		311,612

Roads.

New - - - - -	5,018	
Repairs and maintenance - -	144,003	
		149,021

Bridges.

New - - - - -	6,296	
Maintenance, including canals - -	20,195	
		26,491
Total - - -		487,124

The apparent discrepancy between these figures and those entered in Nos. 15 and 16 of Heads of Expenditure, paragraph 16, is explained as follows :—

Under head of Works and Buildings is here included the sum of Rs. 17,422, value of materials from England, not included in No. 15 of Heads of Expenditure ; and under head of Roads and Bridges is also here included Rs. 1,761, value of materials from England, not included in No. 16 of Heads of Expenditure. In addition there is the sum of Rs. 13,563, expended by the Public Works Department for surveys and other services, which is included under other heads of expenditure.

Savings Bank.

70. The amount deposited in the savings bank in 1877 was Rs. 841,768, of which amount Rs. 436,991 was received from Indians.

71. The total amount deposited during 1877 was Rs. 36,551 less than the aggregate of the sums deposited during the previous year; but the amount deposited by Indians was Rs. 14,854 larger than that of 1876.

72. The total amount withdrawn in 1877 was Rs. 905,385, Rs. 55,225 less than in 1876. The sums withdrawn by Indians returning to their country amounted to Rs. 114,044.

73. The total number of depositors and the total amount in deposit at the end of 1876 and 1877 are shown by the following figures:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount in Deposit.	Average Amount held by each Depositor.
		Rs.	Rs.
1876 -	11,432	2,427,848	212
1877 - -	11,741	2,451,415	208

74. The total amount held in deposit by Indians at the end of 1877 was Rs. 1,286,768, Rs. 85,068 more than at the end of 1876.

Population.

75. Of the two classes of population the number of each as estimated on the 31st December 1877 was as follows:—

Indian.		
Males - - -	149,287	
Females - - -	88,181	
		237,468
General.		
Males - - -	58,776	
Females - -	52,381	
		111,157
Total - - -		348,625

On the 31st December 1876 the numbers were as follows:—

Indian.		
Males - - -	149,460	
Females - - -	86,629	
		236,089
General.		
Males - - -	58,118	
Females - - -	51,748	
		109,866
Total - - -		345,955

MAURITIUS.

76. The total increase of population during the year was 2,670, or 7·65 per 1,000, against 3·91 per 1,000 in 1876.

77. The number of Chinese continues to increase. During the year the excess of arrivals over departures was 468, but 147 deaths were registered in 1877 among this portion of the community, thus reducing the increase to 321.

78. The death-rate of the Indian population was 28·8 per 1,000, and that of the general population 31·3 per 1,000. The death-rate of the city and district of Port Louis was on the whole population 36·9 per 1,000, against 36·2 in the previous year. The health of the Colony was far from satisfactory as compared with previous years; the deaths from fever increased considerably.

79. Of the 10,335 persons who died in the year, 3,715 or 35·94 per cent. were children under five years of age. In 1876 it was 37 per cent.

80. The number of children born alive and registered during the year was 12,486. Of these, 6,285 were boys and 6,201 were girls. Of the births registered, 8,278 were among the Indian population, and 4,208 among the general population.

81. The proportion of births to the female population was of Indians 93·87 per 1,000, and of the general population 80·33 per 1,000.

82. The population of Rodrigues and Seychelles is not included.

Immigration.

83. The number of Indian immigrants landed at the depôt in Port Louis during 1877 was:—

Men - - - -	1,363
Women - - - -	510
Boys - - - -	165
Girls - - - -	149
Total - -	2,187

84. These immigrants arrived in seven vessels, of which five were from Calcutta and two from Madras. Of these, 314 of both sexes had been in Mauritius before.

85. The health of the immigrants at sea was not so satisfactory as it was in the previous year, the rate of mortality being 8·13 per 1,000, against 3·97 in 1876.

86. The number of Indians who left Mauritius during the year was:—

Males - - - -	1,794
Females - - - -	623
Total - -	2,417

Of these 290 males and 246 females were born in the Colony.

87. Of the above numbers 2,078 returned to the three Presidencies, 312 went to Natal, and 27 to other places.

88. The amount of money in cash or drafts declared by the above emigrants as being taken with them was:—

	Rs.
Cash - - -	180,597
Drafts - - - -	100,492
Total - -	281,089

246 men declared that they had no savings.

89. Of those who left the Colony 262 were sent to India at Government expense or of the Poor Law Commission, and 2,139 paid their own passages. This includes the number who left for Natal, and whose passages were mostly paid by their employers. The remaining 16 worked for their return passages. The sums paid for return passages were:—

	Rs.
To Calcutta - - - -	26
To Madras - - - -	24

No ship was chartered for Bombay during 1877. Those who left for that port went with passports in vessels of their own choice.

90. The amount of money remitted by Indians to India, through the Protector of Immigrants, in 1877, was Rs. 4,105, not included in the Rs. 100,492 previously mentioned as having been carried away by return immigrants themselves in drafts.

91. On the 31st December 1877 the number of Indian immigrants in the Colony was estimated as follows:—

Males - - - -	99,028
Females - - - -	42,281
Total - -	141,309

These figures show a diminution of 2,622 males and 815 females below the number on the last day of the previous year. Those of Indian parentage born in the Colony are not included.

92. The engagements entered into during the year between labourers and employers amounted to 63,715; of these, 43,856 were re-engagements with the same employers. About five-sixths of these re-engagements were for periods not exceeding one year. The number of Indians born in the Island who engaged for labour during 1877 was 8,975, against 8,001 in 1876.

93. The number of suicides among the Indian population was 42 against 38 in the previous year. Six of these were committed by females.

The supposed reasons for these suicides were as follows :—

Ill-health - - - -	9
Effects of intoxicating liquor and drugs	3
Domestic trouble - - -	7
After attempting or committing murder	3
Temporary insanity - -	7
Total -	29

Of those remaining two are doubtful cases of suicide and the causes of the remaining 11 are not accounted for.

94. The total number of deaths among the Indian population in the various sugar estates amounted to 3,427, or 25·41 per ,000 on the whole population on sugar estates. This death rate is nearly 6 per 1,000 less than the death rate of the general population.

95. The number of convictions of Indians under the labour laws for refusing to work, unlawful absence, and desertion was 3,934 against 4,527 in the previous year.

96. There is a considerable decrease in the number of convictions of employers and overseers on complaints preferred against them by Indians. The total number being 879 against 5,373 in 1876.

Legislation.

97. Twenty-four ordinances were passed during the year; the principal objects of which were :—

To regulate the rate of interest paid by Government on curatelle moneys in the hands of the Receiver-General.

To constitute the society called "The New Jerusalem Society" into a body corporate.

To extend the operation of Ordinance No. 18 of 1876, regulating the use of traction engines.

To provide for the administration of the Imperial Extradition Acts of 1870 and 1873.

To provide for the detention at the Seychelles of certain political prisoners deported from the Malay Peninsula.

To regulate camps and dwellings upon sugar estates.

To relieve aliens from the obligation of giving security for their good behaviour.

To amend the law relative to reformatories for juvenile offenders.

To amend the law relative to the cultivation of tobacco in the Colony.

To raise the excise duty on Colonial spirits to a par with the customs duty on imported spirits.

To facilitate the construction and regulate the working of tramways.

To amend and consolidate the labour laws and the laws relative to immigration.

This last-mentioned Ordinance was passed on the 18th of December 1877, but has not yet come into force.

Port Louis Prison.

98. The daily average number of criminal prisoners in Port Louis Gaol during 1877 was 646 against 658 in the previous year.

99. The death rate per cent. for the year was 1·19 against 2·40 in 1876.

100. The total number of persons convicted in 1877 by the courts in Port Louis and committed to the Port Louis Prison was as follows:—

Europeans	277
Creoles	829
Indians	1,558
Chinese	28
Africans	110
Other races	59
Total	2,861

In addition to those numbers 62 males and 2 females were sentenced by the Court of Assizes, making a total of 2,925. Of these 278 had been once previously convicted, 99 twice, 106 thrice or oftener; regarding the remainder there was no information. This shows a per-centage of previous convictions of 16·51 on the total number of convictions.

101. There were 3,946 offences against prison rules in the Port Louis Prison during 1877, and the same number of disciplinary punishments.

102. Nine persons escaped during the year; of these 6 escaped at out-door labour, the rest from the gaol itself; 8 were recaptured, leaving only 1 at large.

103. The cost of criminal prisoners convicted and under trial in Port Louis Gaol during 1877 amounted to Rs. 95,988 against Rs. 94,260 in the previous year. This includes all expenses except for buildings. The annual cost of each prisoner was Rs. 148 58. The value of work performed in the prison, deducting cost of materials supplied, amounted to Rs. 10,365. In addition, Rs. 2,199 was realized by the sale of macadam for roads. These sums were paid into the Treasury.

104. The approximate value of the out-door labour of prisoners in sanitary and other works in the vicinity of Port Louis was estimated at Rs. 31,098, and the value of printing for police department at Rs. 1,425.

Establishments.

105. The following table shows the amount paid for salaries, allowances, and contingencies during each year for the 10 years ending with 1877. The annual saving in that period on the payment for the last year amounts to 16,400*l.*

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1868 - -	208,242	27,973	236,215
1869 - -	204,768	25,052	229,820
1870 - -	202,411	27,545	229,956
1871 - -	204,003	27,217	231,220
1872 - -	205,144	24,603	229,747
1873 - -	204,981	23,611	228,592
1874 - -	204,750	24,114	228,864
1875 - -	202,945	22,894	225,839
1876 - -	198,848	22,776	221,624
1877 - -	202,334	17,451	219,785

The establishments of the Seychelles Islands are not included.

Trade.

106. The value of imports and exports for 1876 and for 1877 was as follows:—

——	1877.	1876.	In 1877.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
IMPORTS.	£	£	£	£
Merchandise -	2,187,374	1,806,050	381,324	—
Specie - -	172,075	478,163	—	306,088
EXPORTS.				
Merchandise -	4,074,996	3,051,169	1,023,827	—
Specie - -	126,290	222,653	—	96,363
Grand total -	6,560,735	5,558,035	1,405,151	402,451
	Net increase in 1877 = £1,002,700.			

107. Rates of imports and exports per head of population in the two past years were as follows:—

——	Imports.	Exports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 - -	6 12 1	9 9 3
1877 - -	6 15 4¼	12 1 0

108. In addition to the specie entered in the above table, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried with them specie to the value of 28,108*l.* against 23,161*l.* in the previous year.

109. The quantity of sugar, being home produce, exported during five years was as follows:—

Years.	Tons.	Value.	Rate per Cwt.
		£	£ s. d.
1873 - -	111,718	2,882,590	1 4 11
1874 - -	93,388	2,293,214	1 3 8
1875 - -	87,449	1,939,378	1 2 2½
1876 - -	115,801	2,698,060	1 2 6
1877 - -	136,292	3,749,874	1 7 6

NOTE.—These rates are calculated on the declared value of the sugar exported, not on the market rates.

110. The value of the principal articles of export of home produce other than sugar during the same period was:—

Denomination.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
	£	£	£	£	£
Vanilla - -	12,216	29,951	22,134	26,498	24,336
Aloe fibre - -	4,416	4,403	3,115	7,216	7,929
Cocoa-nut oil - -	9,505	14,297	25,999	17,082	32,350
Rum - - -	47,082	49,268	46,292	51,099	50,089

Observatory.

111. A new building for the photoheliograph and thermograph has been nearly completed.

112. The usual ocular and self registered meteorological and magnetical observations have been continued throughout the year, and progress been made in reducing them.

113. One hundred and fifteen photographs of the sun, showing the number and position of spots on his disk, have been taken.

114. During the year, 17,005 days observations taken on board ships in the Indian Ocean have been tabulated.

115. Only two small tropical cyclones occurred in the Indian Ocean south of the equator in the course of the year. One of them passed over Mauritius on the 10th of February, and telegraphic warnings were sent to Port Louis on the previous day. The tracks of both cyclones have been determined.

116. The storm tracks for the period 1847–1855 have been nearly completed.

117. Further research has confirmed previous conclusions as to a connexion between changes of solar energy and changes of weather.

118. Observations for time have been taken daily, when the weather permitted.

119. Transits of the moon and moon-culminating stars, and eclipses of Jupiter's satellites, have been observed and recorded.

MAURITIUS

Royal Botanic Gardens.

120. The number of visitors to the gardens at Pamplemousses during 1877 was 69,769.

121. During the year 473,450 plants were propagated and sent out. Among these were trees for the Government forests and plantations, fruit trees, coffee plants, and flowering shrubs sold the public.

122. A new plantation containing 107 varieties of sugar cane has been made in order to preserve the several species.

123. Plants of Brazilian caoutchouc have been received from the Royal Gardens, Kew, which promise to do well.

124. The Cinchona plantation at Curepipe promises good results.

Rodrigues.

125. The population of this Island in 1877 amounted to 1,451 souls, thereby showing an increase of 45 over the previous year These people were engaged in the following occupations :—

Agriculture - - - - -	972
Commercial pursuits - - - -	6
Artizans - - - - -	14
Government servants - - - -	11
In private service - - - -	9
Fishermen - - - - -	300
	1,312

The remaining 139 are aged persons, invalids, paupers, and infants.

126. The value of imports amounted to Rs. 36,390 against Rs. 40,880 in 1876. This decrease is owing to the great hurricane in 1876 which destroyed the crops of the Island and necessitated the importation of a larger quantity of rice.

127. The value of the exports amounted to Rs. 65,580 against Rs. 83,580 in the previous year. This decrease is due to the reduction in the number of cattle exported. The number of horned cattle exported during the year was 254 against 916 in 1876.

128. The revenue in 1877 including lease of pasturage land and "Crab Island" amounted to Rs. 10,070 against Rs. 10,080 in the previous year.

129. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 15,860 against Rs. 15,090 in 1876.

130. The average daily attendance at the Government school was 49 children.

Minor Dependencies.

131. The Oil Islands were visited four times during the year by the magistrate appointed under Ordinance 41 of 1875. His reports were laid before the Council of Government. Many improvements in the administration of the Islands have been affected.

Mauritius, 15th August 1878.

SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1877.

Legislation.

Ordinance No. 9 of 1877 provides for the detention at Seychelles of Malay political prisoners, with penalties against any person aiding or attempting to aid or negligently permitting the prisoners to escape or attempt to escape.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1869, to amend the law regarding the punishment in certain cases of arson, was extended to Seychelles by proclamation, with the modification that it shall not be lawful to award the punishment of death.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1875, on vaccination, was extended to Sychelles by proclamation, with the required modifications to meet the different titles of executive officers. The vaccination stations, as well as the days and hours of attendance thereat, are to be fixed by the Board of Civil Commissioners.

Ordinance No. 18 of 1868, to repeal certain of the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, of the Civil Code, and of the Colonial Ordinances relative to the sales of immoveable property, with modifications, was extended to Seychelles by proclamation. This law facilitates the sale of immoveable property in Seychelles.

The Board of Civil Commissioners passed regulations legalising the supplementary expenditures that were incurred in the years 1874, 1875, and 1876, and passed a regulation embodying the estimates for the rear 1878.

A regulation was also passed to amend regulation No. 1 of 1873. It has for its object the release of the collector of dues and taxes from being ex-officio warden of the wards of North Mahé and Silhouette Island.

A regulation was also passed for the police of the public market at Port Victoria; it determines the articles that may be sold therein, the charges for selling, the prohibitions that are deemed advisable, and the steps to prevent adulteration and the exposure of articles unfit for food.

The rate for post office orders on the United Kingdom was altered from 3/5 (Rs. 1.70) for the pound sterling to Rs. 1.37 for the pound sterling. The rate for post office orders between Seychelles and Mauritius was altered from 3*d.* for any sum less than 2*l.* and 4*d.* for every 5*l.*, to 20 cents. of a rupee for every sum not exceeding Rs. 10, and 2 cents extra for every rupee up to Rs. 50.

Revenue

The revenue of the Settlement for the year 1877 was levied under the following heads:—

SEYCHELLES.

Taxes.

	Rs.	Cts.
Customs and quay dues -	68,523	23
Licenses (778 in number) -	15,765	0
Excise duty on spirits - -	20,851	99
Stamps (exclusive of postage) -	2,691	62
Dog tax, at Rs. 3 a dog, and fines	2,624	33
Local rate - - -	20,581	23
Total - -	131,037	40

Exclusive of Taxation.

	Rs.	Cts.
Rent of crown lands and sales of produce and timber thereon - - - -	3,587	44
Warehouse rent - - - -	1,970	68
Court fines and fees - - - -	5,022	86
Postage and money orders - - -	2,421	39
Market and water receipts and Board of Health charges for cemeteries - - -	3,454	75
Charges for registration of documents -	930	17
Hospital receipts - - - -	855	33
Sundries, including shipping master's receipts -	1,473	99
Estimated value of prison labour - -	2,513	24½
Receipts, exclusive of taxation -	22,229	85½
Amount of taxes - - - -	131,037	40
Total - - - -	153,267	25½
Receipts not estimated for (explanation further on) - - - - -	5,503	12
Grand total - - -	158,770	37½

The revenue was estimated at Rs. 127,460 on 22 items. Each item gave a receipt. On 12 items the excess was Rs. 34,237 . 57½; on 10 items the deficit was Rs. 8,430 . 32. Of the deficit, one item, that for local rate, Rs. 418 . 77, will be almost quite recovered hereafter. The sanitary rate, estimated at about Rs. 3,000, was not levied, the revenue for all purposes having been considered sufficient without it. The excise duty on rum distilled at Seychelles came to Rs. 4,148 . 01 less than the sum estimated to be received. The net excess of receipts under the items of the estimates was Rs. 25,807 . 25½.

The excess over the estimates on the duties of customs was Rs. 29,814 . 61. This is the great feature of the year.

The returns for the last three years are as follows for duties of customs :—

1875.	1876.	1877.
Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
35,548 37½	28,986 64	65,814 61

The falling off in the receipts for duties of customs in 1876 was sufficiently accounted for in the last report, where it was shown to be due to circumstances not bearing on the commercial and industrial advance of the country. It was pointed out that the customs laws (the double system of customs) then existing made it difficult to meet by importation from foreign countries a falling off in an article usually supplied from home producers and from Mauritius.

During the year 1877 larger quantities of goods were imported than in any previous year; the preference was still given to the old markets, but there was a marked extension of trade with foreign countries. If the old markets supply equally good articles as foreign markets, and at a similar price, they will have the preference, but not otherwise; they will now be forced to compete.

In 1876 the importations from Mauritius did not meet the wants of consumers, and as the customs system of refunds on goods imported from Mauritius discouraged foreign imports, the revenue naturally suffered with the people. The change in the law towards the close of the year 1876, by which imports from all countries were placed on an equal footing, immediately caused an increase of imports and of revenue.

While a considerable proportion of the marked increase in the direct receipts from customs—equal to 112 per cent. over the receipts of 1876 and 92 per cent. over the receipts of 1875—is no doubt due to larger imports, the whole of it cannot thus be accounted for. Ten per cent. of increase over the former customs tariff will account for a portion of the extra receipts. Owing to this augmentation of customs duties, no sanitary rate was levied in 1877; by this method the consumer, or at all events the tax-payer, was compensated for the increased tariff. A large part of the increase must be ascribed to the direct natural consequences of all customs duties being levied at Seychelles by Seychelles officials. It has been demonstrated that the system of refunds by Mauritius for goods imported thence caused a loss to the Seychelles revenue.

Besides the receipts under the items of the estimate there were receipts from two other items equal to Rs. 5,503 . 12. One of the receipts was for a deficit that occurred in the public treasury in 1874, and of which Rs. 4,721 . 21 were recouped by a guarantee company, and the other receipt, amounting to Rs. 781 . 91, was the balance remaining over from the Seychelles relief fund 1866.

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This latter item has been expended in an asylum for the aged and infirm.

The total revenue from all sources in 1877 came to Rs. 158,770.37½; in 1876 it was Rs. 106,584.61, being Rs. 52,185.76½ less; in 1875 it was Rs. 130,236.23, being Rs. 28,534.14½ less.

Expenditure.

	Rs.	cts.	
The estimated expenditure for the year was	125,400	00	
The amount expended under the items voted was - - - -	125,009	63	
Being - - - - -	390	37	less.

On 18 items the estimates were exceeded to the amount of Rs. 10,914.75½, and on 18 items the sums expended were less than the estimates to the amount of Rs. 11,145.12½, and on 16 items the actual amount voted was spent.

The excesses were chiefly due to the necessity of having acting wardens to collect the local rate, costing Rs. 823.25, to the education grant having been exceeded by the sum of Rs. 2,240.50, to the administration of justice, mostly for cases sent for trial to Mauritius, Rs. 201.09, to transport Rs. 860.90. (This is an item which is generally exceeded from transport allowances to officers, it is impossible to foretell what movement of officials may take place.) Stores in all cases exceeded grants, the gaol for the sum of Rs. 1,836.18, the police for the sum of Rs. 1,608.92, the hospital for the sum of Rs. 1,731.43, dispensary and leper establishment for the sum of Rs. 716.34. There were more prisoners than were expected, the police received arms and accoutrements to serve for a long period, part of the dispensary increase is due to the new establishment for the outlying islands which received medicines for the value of Rs. 251.16 the remainder, Rs. 465.18, was for extra medicines, &c. for Port Victoria dispensary and articles for the leper establishment.

Of the stationary votes Rs. 1,628.96 remained unexpended. Surveys of and guardians for crown lands cost Rs. 1,107.00 less than the sums voted. Rs. 1,500.00 for a mortgage office and savings bank remained unexpended, those establishments not having yet been opened. The vote for conveyance of mails by sea, Rs. 1,478.92, was unexpended, but the amount is due and will have to be paid hereafter. Rs. 3,625.56 remained unexpended on materials and roads. Besides the estimated expenditure on the receipts of the year there were special votes of the Board of Civil Commissioners, to come out of the balance, of which Rs. 2,937 were expended. These votes were for a customs shed on the Port Victoria pier head to place goods temporarily under shelter, Rs. 1,000. For a new bonded warehouse, the cost left open. For the poor asylum at Mont Fleuri, Rs. 500. For the

Protestant minister at Praslin, Rs. 750. For a guardian at Félicité Island, Rs. 300. A sum of Rs. 500 was also voted for the continuation of Hangar Street, Port Victoria, and the work was completed by contract for the money, but the cost is included in the estimated expenditure "Roads and Bridges" the original vote for these purposes under the estimates not having been exceeded.

In addition to the expenditure under the estimates and the expenditure under separate votes, there were sums paid away to the extent of Rs. 15,869 . 64, as follows: Undrawn fees for 1876 in the medical department, 3,000 Rs. Law books for the Court, Rs. 813 . 24. Auditor from Mauritius, Rs. 3,071 . 26. Cost of houses built at Félicité Island for the political prisoners, Rs. 2,330 . 80 (rented to the Government of Singapore). Coal wharf, Port Victoria, taken over from Roux de Fraissinet & Co. of Marseilles, at the cost of construction, Rs. 1,585 . 91, and rented at Rs. 200 a year. Completion of, and materials for, Port Victoria Lighthouse, Rs. 2,670 . 92, and a keeper for the same Rs. 293. Refunds of customs and rates Rs. 278 . 82. Bank charges on remittances to Mauritius, Rs. 267 . 55. Rent of a temporary bonded warehouse (the government warehouse being full) Rs. 340. Government house furniture, Rs. 877 . 69 (there was a vote for furniture in 1874, and again in 1875, unexpended). Sundries, Rs. 340 . 45.

The total expenditure was Rs. 143,817 . 04, being Rs. 9,450 . 21½ under the receipts on the items of estimate and Rs. 18,953 . 33½ under the total receipts for the year.

Under the receipts a sum of Rs. 2,513 . 24½ figured for prison labour. The cost of guards and prisoners having been already charged, the value of prison labour given to the several works is not included in the expenditure. The prison labour given to all the public departments, including the work done in the gaol, was 9,927½ days valued at 25 cents a day, Rs. 2,481 . 87½. A sum of Rs. 31 . 37 was received for prison labour hired, making a total of Rs. 2,513 . 24½. The gaol of Port Victoria under the estimates cost for salaries Rs. 1,800 and for stores Rs. 5,336 . 18, total Rs. 7,136 . 18. Deducting the value of the labour of prisoners obtained in return, the net cost of the gaol to the Settlement was Rs. 4,626 . 93½.

Imports.

The imports from all countries have been valued at Rs. 560,931 42 for the year 1877, as follows:—

	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts
Mauritius, general merchandise -	316,193	59		
Specie (in rupees and currency notes of Mauritius) - -	77,402	86		
			393,596	45
France - - -	-	-	77,946	21
England - - -	-	-	48,541	32
French Colony of Réunion -	-	-	12,000	17

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	Rs.	cts
Madagascar (including the French Colonies of Nossibé and Mayotte) - - -	15,409	04
America (United States) - - - -	11,346	53
Aden - - - - - -	2,091	70
	560,931	42

Comparative Statement of Imports for three years. Including Specie and Notes.

1875.	1876.	1877.
Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
323,736 77½	392,943 21	560,931 42

The increase in the imports is distributed over most objects of trade, but occurs notably in rice and articles of general consnmption and in clothing. The value of cottons, cloth, and wearing apparel imported was Rs. 164,822.98, of which Rs. 71,263.72 came direct from France, England, and foreign countries and colonies, and Rs. 93,559.26 from Mauritius. The total value of rice imported was Rs. 94,620.76 of which Rs. 92,503.32 worth came from Mauritius. The value of machinery imported from England and France came to Rs. 6,433.

Exports.

The value of the exports for the year 1877 was Rs. 90,784 39 more than for the year 1876, nevertheless there was a falling off in the shipments of three main articles of produce,— 162,475 velts of cocoa nut oil were shipped against 170,977 velts in 1876, a difference of 8,502 velts; 644,714 cocoa nuts were shipped against 722,580 in 1876, a difference of 77,866 nuts; 192,500 lbs. of manufactured fibre were shipped against 422,080 lbs. in 1876, a falling off to the extent of 229,580 lbs. Although the shipments of these three articles were less, there was no diminution of production in the cocoa nut plantations, and in the manufacture of fibre there was an actual increase. The delay of an outward bound vessel caused a cargo of fibre to remain stored over the year. The export of cloves increased from 1,832 lbs. in 1876 to 6,527 lbs. in 1877, a difference of 4,795 lbs. The export of cacao also more than doubled. Vanilla being an article of small bulk and of considerable value is often taken on board vessels by the shippers themselves, and an account is not always rendered; no reliable returns have been obtainable as yet for this article, but the plantations are increasing and presumably the exports also. Coffee is yet only exported in small parcels, but it will be an important future export as there are 350 acres under this crop. Tobacco exports fell; the cultivators of Seychelles do not know how to prepare this article to enable them to compete with their neighbours. Seychelles tobacco is of a good quality, but it will

not keep long enough as at present prepared. 50 tons of Indian corn were exported, being nearly 8 tons over last year. The export of lard and salt fish also increased. Goods of the value of Rs. 13,000 were re-exported, almost every description of exported produce had increased in value during the year.

	Rs.	cts.
The exports of specie were of the value of -	128,571	60
Exceeding the imports of the same article amounting to - - - -	77,402	86
By - - - - - -	51,168	74

The following is the distribution of the exports of specie :—

	Rs.	cts.
Mauritius - - -	103,965	20
Madagascar - - -	13,600	00
Réunion - - -	7,140	40
France - - -	3,866	00
	128,571	60

The following is the distribution of exports, exclusive of specie and re-exports :—

	Rs.	cts.
Mauritius - - -	295,466	28
France - - -	123,364	86
Réunion - - -	15,290	98
Madagascar - - -	2,634	75
England - - -	1,025	00
Mascat - - -	425	00
	438,206	87

The following is a comparative statement of exports for three years :—

—	1875.	1876.	1877.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Ordinary exports -	289,349 37	442,550 29	438,206 87
Re-exports - -	nil	7,297 79	13,000 00
Specie - - -	(No record kept)	39,146 00	128,571 60
		488,994 08	579,778 47
			488,994 08
Increase - -	- - -	- - -	90,784 39

Education.

The were eight schools examined in 1877, being three more than in 1876. The grants recommended by the examiners were as follows:—

Description of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Children who pay.	Number of Children taught gratuitously.	Total Number of Attendances.	Amount of Grant in Aid.
					Rs. cts.
Port Victoria boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	3	33	65	98	1,302 50
Port Victoria girls' schools, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	5	77	239	316	2,519 00
Royal Bay boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	1	—	38	38	277 00
Royal Bay girls' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	2	9	103	112	781 00
Boileau Bay boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	1	—	25	25	243 75
Port Victoria boys' school, Church of England Mission - - -	2	—	67	67	1,018 75
Port Victoria girls' school, Church of England Mission - - -	1	—	50	50	315 00
Praslin Island boys' school, Church of England Mission - - -	1	—	30	30	257 50
Total for eight schools -	16	119	617	736	6,714 50†
In 1876 five schools -	17*	86	366	550	4,340 00
Orphans - - - - -	—	—	98	—	—

Besides the above there were eight unexamined schools attended by 156 pupils, of whom 96 were boys and 50 were girls, and the Church Missionary Society's Establishment for minor liberated Africans having 35 boys and 20 girls. The total youth of the country ascertained to have been receiving instruction in the year 1877 numbered 947, being 173 more than in the year 1876.

Population.

There were 487 births during the year; the deaths numbered 242 ; the number of births were the same as last year ; the deaths were 60 less. The following gives the returns for three years.

——	1875.	1876.	1877.	Totals.
Births - - -	464	487	487	1,438
Deaths - - -	318	302	242	862
Excess of births - -	146	185	245	576

Excess of births over deaths in three years, 576.

* The number of teachers in 1876 return included those not remunerated.

† The amount paid was Rs. 6,740 . 50.

The following gives the birth rate per 1,000 females of the population for three years:—

1875	-	-	-	74·9 per 1,000
1876	-	-	-	77·5 „
1877	-	-	-	76· „

The following gives the death rate per 1,000 of the population for three years:—

1875	-	-		25· per 1,000
1876	-	-	-	23·4 „
1877	-	-	-	18·4 „

The marriages in 1875 were 87; in 1876, 103; in 1877, 147.

Agriculture.

The acreage under general cultivation did not increase in 1877. The unusual and long prolonged heavy rains damaged the existing vegetable crops and reduced the production considerably. The acreage under the circumstances was reduced for fresh gardens, as the heavy rains continued. The acreage under coffee, cloves, vanilla, cacao, and cocoa-nuts increased somewhat; that under tobacco was lessened. The coco de mer palm still exists in from 130 to 150 acres of land at Praslin and Curieuse Islands, and will probably draw more attention in the future, owing to the many valuable articles it can produce.

Post Office.

The number of letters received from, and sent abroad were 14,184, of which 543 were registered, 31 samples of goods, 783 book packages, and 16,276 newspapers were likewise received from, and sent abroad in 1877. There were 428 money orders issued during the year, of which 415 were for Mauritius, of the value of Rs. 20,074 . 47, and 13 for the United Kingdom, of the value of Rs. 837 . 08, being nearly the same as last year; 15 money orders were paid at Seychelles on account of Mauritius, of the value of Rs. 660 . 50, and five on account of the United Kingdom, of the value of Rs. 235 . 00. The total money order remittances from Seychelles were Rs. 20,911 . 55, and to Seychelles Rs. 895 . 50, being nearly the same proportion as last year.

Commerce.

Eighty-one merchant vessels measuring 40,793 tons entered Port Victoria harbour; this is seven vessels and 938 tons over last year. In the year 1876 the number of vessels was 81, but the tonnage was less by 13,142 tons. 379 passengers were landed, being 133 over last year. 167 seamen were engaged, and 166 were discharged before the shipping master, being 69 less engaged, and 21 less discharged, than last year. Nine war steamers arrived, eight being British and one French.

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Thirty-one of the merchant vessels entered from Mauritius, two from England, one from France, four from Madagascar, two from Zanzibar, one from Singapore, the remainder from Aden, the neighbouring Islands, and from whaling.

Public Works and Roads.

Nine new bridges were constructed during the year, and 14 existing bridges were considerably repaired. About 500 yards of road fit for carriage traffic were made on the N.E. road from Port Victoria, at a cost of about 16*s.* a yard; a new street (continuation of Hangar Street) was made in the town, 600 feet long, and 17 feet wide; 300 feet more of road were cut on the Cascade Road; 29½ miles of main roads and the streets of Port Victoria were kept in repair, so far as the heavy weather of the year permitted. The Port Victoria Pier, 3,179 feet long by 21 feet wide, was kept in repair, fit for waggon traffic, and 745 feet of tramway thereon were partially renewed. A wall, 3 feet high and 18 inches wide, was built around the Port Victoria Lighthouse platform, and the lighthouse, built of granite, was erected on the platform during the year, and otherwise completed and lighted. The hydrographical notice stated that:—

"A light house has been erected on the N.W. edge of the southern reef at the entrance to Port Victoria, from which, after the 1st of March 1877, will be exhibited a fixed red light, at an elevation of 37 feet above H.W., visible in clear weather at a distance of 9 nautical miles.

"The light is catoptric and will show an unbroken arc of 140° of illumination between the bearing of S. 1° E., and N. 39° W.

"Vessels outside St. Anne's and the other outlying Islands will have the light visible when the illuminated arc is not obscured by land.

"A fixed red light from the same lighthouse will also be shown towards the anchorage in Port Victoria (called the Inner Harbour).

"Moorings have been laid down for mail steamers at the entrance of Port Victoria, and an iron buoy painted red supports the bridles."

Premises for the keeper were constructed on the platform of the lighthouse. The Rochon River water was further passed through the town of Port Victoria by extension of pipes. The lighting of the town was increased. A sea wall of granite, 6 feet wide and 230 feet long, was completed facing the ships anchorage at the end of, and perpendicular to, the Port Victoria Pier; at the end of the Pier a tier of steps measuring 28 feet, built of cut coral, has been placed for the convenience of passengers. Space for a coal wharf, 85 feet long by 84 feet deep, was filled in at one end of the sea wall, upon which 500 to 600 tons of coal are now stored; the remainder is used for loading and unloading vessels, and was filled in for a length of 58 feet to a depth of 63 feet. The wharfs have yet to be extended and completed to a length of 300 feet by a depth of 100

feet. An asylum for the poor and infirm was built at Mont Fleuri. Several other minor works were completed during the year, and the existing buildings were kept in repair.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Six hundred and seventy-six persons were charged by the police before the magistrates during the year 1877 for various offences; of these 562 were convicted, 118 were discharged, and 6 remained untried; 445 of the convictions were for minor offences, and 117 for crimes (including 5 cases remaining over from 1876).

The following is a return of the convictions for crimes.

Manslaughter - - - -	1
Drugging - - - -	4
Wounds and blows - - -	16
Threats to injure - - -	6
Public outrage and violence - -	2
Arson - - - - -	1
Embezzlement - - - -	1
Housebreaking - - - -	9
Larceny of produce - - -	14
Other larcenies - - - -	30
Receiving stolen goods - - -	28
Perjury and subornation - -	2
Adultery - - - -	1
Usurpation of office - - -	2
	117

56	of the offenders are	creoles of Seychelles.
45	„	liberated Africans.
9	„	Indians.
7	„	Foreigners.
117		

The per-centage of crime to the living population in 1877 was about ·89.

Of the minor offences 31 came under the labour laws and 17 were for vagrancy, 107 were for drunkenness, the remainder were for various offences.

261	of the minor offenders	are	creoles.
127	„	„	liberated Africans.
23	„	„	Indians.
29	„	„	Foreigners.
5	„	„	Europeans.
445			

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The per-centage of minor offences was about 3·39.

The value of property stolen was estimated at Rs. 1,241 . 86 of which the sum of Rs. 842 . 68 was recovered.

For some of the minor offences fines were inflicted to the amount of Rs. 2,945 . 75, last year they came to Rs. 4,037, and in 1876 Rs. 2,675 . 66. Those who did not pay were sent to gaol.

Besides the above persons charged by and convicted through the police there were a number of persons brought before the court on summons by private parties. The offences, all of a minor kind, were for trespass, assault, abusive language, threats, and larcenies of produce. There were 85 convictions, mostly in fines that were paid (not included in the above Rs. 2,945 75), some persons were sent to gaol. No regular and separate record has been kept of these proceedings up to last year, and they cannot consequently be so minutely referred to as the police records.

Three hundred and seventy-five prisoners were sent to the Port Victoria gaol during the year, 1 was for debt and 3 to await sureties. 128 had been already convicted once, 57 twice, and 174 three or more times. There were only 12 prisoners sent to gaol for the first time in 1877, which tends to show that crimes and minor offences are confined to a limited body. 344 of the convictions were for three months or less, 22 from three months to a year, and 11 from one to five years. One conviction was for over five years. The daily average of prisoners in gaol was 44·99/365, last year it was 37, and in 1876, 58. 23 prisoners were sent to the public hospital, being the same number as last year. The monthly average on the sick list was 13. There were no deaths.

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

STATEMENT of the REVENUE for the year 1877.

Item of Revenue.	Estimated Revenue.	Receipts.	Estimate exceeded.	Less than Estimate.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Customs. Import duties -	36,000 00	65,814 61	29,814 61	—
Quay dues - - -	2,000 00	2,708 62	708 62	—
Warehouse rent - -	1,500 00	1,401 00	—	99 00
Rent of Government lands -	1,000 00	1,496 50	496 50	—
Sales of Government property (including timber and produce) - - -	1,500 00	2,090 94	590 94	—
Registration of deeds - -	1,600 00	930 17	—	669 83
Licenses, general - -	16,000 00	15,765 00	—	235 00
Rum permits (excise duty) -	25,000 00	20,851 99	—	4,148 01
Stamps - - -	2,500 00	2,691 62	191 62	—
Dog tax - - -	2,500 00	2,624 33	124 33	—
Local rate - - -	21,000 00	20,581 23	—	418 77*
Board of Health and Sanitary rate - - - -	3,500 00	1,255 63	—	2,244 37†
Postages - - -	2,160 00	2,203 16	43 16	—
Money orders - - -	200 00	218 23	18 23	—
Fines, fees, and forfeitures of Court - - -	4,000 00	5,022 86	1,022 86	—
Rum storage - - -	800 00	569 68	—	230 32
Public hospital receipts -	800 00	855 33	55 33	—
Shipping master's receipts -	350 00	315 86	—	34 14
Miscellaneous receipts - -	500 00	1,158 13	658 13	—
Water receipts - - -	750 00	493 50	—	256 50
Market receipts - -	1,800 00	1,705 62	—	94 38
Receipts for prison labour -	2,000 00	2,513 24½	513 24½	—
	127,460 00	153,267 25½	34,237 57½	8,430 32
Receipts not estimated for :—			Net excess on estimates.	25,807 25½
Guarantee society for deficit in 1874 - - -	4,721 21			
Balance of "Seychelles relief fund 1866" transferred from Mauritius -	781 91			34,237 57½
		5,503 12		
Total receipts - -	- - -	158,770 37½		

STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for the Year 1877 under the ESTIMATES.

Item of Expenditure.	Estimate voted.	Expenditure.	Estimate exceeded.	Less than Estimate.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
Chief Civil Commissioner.	8,880 00	8,880 00	—	—	
Board of Civil Commissioners.	750 00	500 00	- -	250 00	Cost of printing and bookbinding has been charged under the general head printing office.
Collector of dues and taxes.	2,000 00	2,000 00	—	—	
Three clerks - -	3,150 00	3,150 00	—	—	
Wardens, sub-wardens, and inspectors.	3,780 00	4,603 25	823 25	- -	Acting wardens and inspectors extra.
Savings bank - -	500 00	- - -	- -	500 00	Bank not yet opened.
Judge - - -	5,000 00	5,000 00	—	—	
Two clerks - -	3,950 00	3,950 00	—	—	

* This amount will be recovered. † The sanitary rate was not levied this year.

Item of Expenditure.	Estimate voted.	Expenditure.	Estimate exceeded.	Less than Estimate.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
Justice of the Peace, outlying Islands.	2,000 00	1,729 15	- -	270 85	This officer did not take up his appointment on 1st January.
Mortgage office, conservator.	1,000 00	- - -	- -	1,000 00	The mortgage office not yet opened.
Registration clerk -	720 00	720 00	—	—	
Ecclesiastical salaries -	8,000 00	8,000 00	—	—	
Crown lands surveys -	2,500 00	1,448 00	- -	1,052 00	
Guardians of Crown lands.	660 00	605 00	- -	55 00	
Market keeper - -	480 00	480 00	—	—	
Payments to medical officers.	5,500 00	5,666 66	166 66	- -	The medical officer, outlaying Islands receives Rs. 500 a year over the estimate of Rs. 1,500.
Payments to hospital and dispensary servants.	1,880 00	1,880 00	—	—	
Pratique boatmen -	696 00	696 00	—	—	
Vaccination fees -	800 00	746 00	- -	54 00	
Pratique officer, fees for visiting.	—	—	—	—	
Mails, after 6 p.m. -	168 00	210 00	42 00	—	
Leper establishment, payment of servants.	396 00	396 00	—	—	
Education grants -	4,500 00	6,740 50	2,240 50	- -	Excess partly due to the opening of more schools.
Immigration Department, Inspector of Africans.	1,000 00	1,000 00	—	—	
Post Office Department, Postmaster.	1,000 00	1,000 00	—	—	
Police force, 46 officers and men, and four boatmen.	19,940 00	19,588 83	- -	351 17	
Gaol of Port Victoria:—					
Gaoler - -	840 00	840 00	—	—	
Matron - -	480 00	480 00	—	—	
Guards - -	720 00	480 00	- -	240 00	One prison guard less.
Port officer, Port Victoria.	960 00	960 00	—	—	
Cutter "Wave" -	982 00	982 00	—	—	
Boats, buoys, beacons, and lighters.	1,800 00	1,813 08	13 08	—	
Board of Health of Port Victoria, including cemetery keepers.	1 528 00	1,174 75	- -	353 25	Prison labour included in estimate but placed on a separate account, vide "Prison labour."
Pensions - -	980 00	589 92	- -	390 08	One pensioner died during the year.
Revenue services, extras, poundage on stamp sales and copyists.	500 00	582 39	82 39	—	
Fees to medical men -	200 00	234 25	34 25	—	
Advances to and conveyance of witnesses.	700 00	866 84	166 84	- -	Excess due to transport of witnesses to Mauritius.
Fees to ushers - -	500 00	469 80	- -	30 20	
Transport passages of officials and freight of materials.	1,000 00	1,860 90	860 90	- -	Passage of auditor, Rs. 338, and extra materials.
Conveyance of mails by sea.	1,500 00	21 08	- -	1,478 92	Account still due to the General Post Office, London.
Official postages -	250 00	276 96	26 96	—	
Petties - - -	250 00	191 94	- -	58 06	
Pier head, Port Victoria, and public wharf.	3,100 00	3,165 81	65 81	—	
New cemetery, Mont Fleuri.	400 00	342 93	. -	57 07	
Maintenance of buildings.	4,000 00	4,390 15	390 15	—	
Maintenance and repairs.	2,750 00	2,859 09½	109 09½	—	
New roads and bridges, and extensions.	10,000 00	8,229 18½	- -	1,770 81½	The Cascade Road was not continued; no contractor was found until 1878.
Gaol stores - -	3,500 00	5,336 18	1,836 18		There were more prisoners than was anticipated.

Item of Expenditure.	Estimate voted.	Expenditure.	Estimate exceeded.	Less than Estimate.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
Police stores - -	2,500 00	4,108 92	1,608 92	- -	The police were supplied with arms and accoutrements.
Hospital stores, rations	770 00	2,501 43	1,731 43	- -	The increase is partly due to more admissions to hospital and to Rs. 792.16 for furniture for nurses' quarters and wards.
Allowance to two nurses	480 00	480 00	—	—	
Leper establishment, stores.	800 00	905 47	105 47	- -	Excess mostly due to higher price of rice.
Public dispensaries, medicines.	500 00	1,110 87	610 87	- -	Rs. 25.16 of this excess for medicines for Praslin dispensary not estimated.
Government offices, stationery, books.	2,000 00	621 04	- -	1,378 96	Rs. 410 due on this estimate.
Public works, materials, tools.	2,000 00	145 25	- -	1,854 75	There are some articles not yet paid for; the accounts have not yet arrived.
Total - -	125,240 00	125,009 63	10,91 75½	11,145 12½	

RETURN showing the DISTRIBUTION of PRISON LABOUR for the Year 1877.

			Rs. cts.
Completement of pier head and Government wharf.	1,589 days o	prison labour at 25 cts.	397 25
Completement of new cemetery	621	,, ,, -	156 50
Maintenance, public buildings -	231½	,, ,, -	57 87½
Boats, buoys, and beacons -	197	,, ,, -	49 25
Roads and bridges maintenance	1,202	,, ,, -	300 50
Continuation of Cascade Road	40	,, ,, -	10 00
Construction of North-east Road	1,205	,, ,, -	301 25
Lighthouse - - -	435	,, ,, -	108 75
Quarantine station - -	30	,, ,, -	7 50
Government wharf - -	522	,, ,, -	130 50
Civil stores hospital - -	54	,, ,, -	13 50
Political Department - -	62	,, ,, -	15 50
Shed at end of pier - -	41	,, ,, -	10 25
In prison yard - -	1,944	,, ,, -	486 00
Crown Lands Department -	734	,, ,, -	183 50
Board of Health - -	949	,, ,, -	237 25
Custom House (Revenue Office)	66	,, ,, -	16 50
Total - -	9,927½ days at 25 cts.	- -	2,481 87½
Amount received in cash for prison labour, hired.	- - -	- -	31 37
	Total	- - -	2,513 24½

TOTAL EXPENDITURE, SEYCHELLES, 1877.

	Rs. cts.
Expended under estimates - - -	125,009 63
Separate votes - - - -	2,937 77
Special expenditure - -	15,869 64
Total - - -	143,817 04

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EXPENDITURE under "SEPARATE VOTES," 1877.

Item of Expenditure.	Amount voted.	Expended.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
Customs shed on pier - -	1,000 00	143 67	
Warehouse (bonded) - -	Left open	924 42	* "Balance of Seychelles Relief Fund, 1866," Rs. 781 91, transferred to this account.
Census officers, 1876 census -	200 00	200 00	
Poor Asylum, Mont Fleuri -	500 00	881 28*	
Protestant minister, Praslin -	750 00	548 40	
Guardian, Félicité Island -	300 00	240 00	
Total - -	- - -	2,937 77	

SPECIAL EXPENDITURE in 1877.

Item of Expenditure.	Amount expended.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
Medical Department—medical officers' fees for 1876 paid in 1877.	3,000 00	
Administration of Justice — law books, &c.	813 24	
Paid to auditor from Mauritius -	3,071 26	
Houses built at Félicité Island for political prisoners.	2,130 80	Rented to Government of Singapore at Rs. 400 a year, not yet completed.
Coal wharf, Port Victoria - -	1,585 91	Rented to Roux de Fraissinet and Co., of Marseilles, for Rs. 200 a year.
Lighthouse, Port Victorta - -	2,670 92	This includes glasses, lamps, and materials for some years.
Lighthouse keeper, Port Victoria -	293 00	
Police station and lock-up, Félicité Island.	200 00	Will be used as a prison when completed.
Refunds of Customs and rates -	278 82	
Charges at Oriental Bank, Mauritius, on remittances.	267 55	
Rent paid for bonded warehouse, Royal Street.	340 00	
Government House furniture -	877 69	
Maintenance of a lunatic at Mauritius	91 00	
Advance to Serjeant-Major Underwood.	50 00	This was repaid.
Special payment to Serjeant-Major Underwood for designating public roads.	10 00	Under road regulations.
Insurances paid to Government of Mauritius.	78 69	
Special clerical aid on estimates, 1878	17 00	
Rent of premises - - -	70 00	
Paid to surveyor-general, Mauritius, for workmen.	23 76	
Total - -	15,869 64	

IMPORTS.

Recapitulation.

	Rs.	cts.
*Mauritius	393,596	45
Madagascar	15,409	04
Aden	2,091	70
America	11,346	53
Reunion	12,000	17
England	48,541	32
France	77,946	21
Total Imports	560,931	42

EXPORTS to MAURITIUS for 1877.

		Rs.	cts.
Vacoa bags	68,284	2,047	50
Gunny	1,200	78	00
Preserved banana	626 carrots	313	00
Cocoa nuts	580,964	12,090	30
Coco de mer nuts	1,034	1,034	00
Coco de mer wood	-	50	00
Cocoa nut oil	117,224 velts	263,754	00
Cloves	1,317 pounds	329	15
Cotton (clean)	300 „	99	00
„ (uncleaned)	1,300 „	58	50
Coffee	100 „	100	00
Salt fish	900 „	54	00
Fish oil	277 velts	277	00
Furniture	-	160	00
Hogs lard	8,626 pounds	3,234	00
Lemons	10,000	40	00
„ salted	-	50	00
Lime juice	510 velts	382	50
Maize (Indian corn)	112,750 pounds	2,818	75
Oranges	8,510	255	28
Salt pork	-	20	00
Preserved provisions	-	484	50
Copper, old	3,380 pounds	422	50
Haberdashery	-	310	00
Arrowroot	-	30	00
Boats	-	100	00
Manioc cakes	-	47	00
Sheets gavand : iron	-	184	80
Shell work	-	22	00
Sundries	-	345	00
Straw work	-	406	50
Sugar	295 pounds	48	00
Shingles	4,000	48	00
Specie	-	103,965	20
Rice	2 bags	24	00
Rum	22½ gallons	40	00
Timber	-	186	00
Tobacco	2,774 pounds	2,774	00
Tortoise shell	142 „	781	00
Wheel spokes	16,399	1,968	00
Total	-	399,431	48

* Including specie, Rs. 77,402 86.

EXPORTS to FRANCE for 1877.

			Rs.	cts.
Cocoa nut oil	39,003 velts	-	87,762	50
„ fibre	192,500 pounds	-	17,187	00
„ yarn	1,550 „	-	260	00
Coffee	300 „	-	300	00
Cotton (clean)	2,200 „	-	726	00
Cacao	3,100 „	-	465	00
Cloves	6,210 „	-	1,552	50
Machinery	- - -	-	13,000	00
Preserved fruits	- - -	-	170	00
Specie	- - -	-	3,866	00
Straw work	- - -	-	26	00
Sundries	- - -	-	180	00
Rum	16 gallons	-	24	36
Vanilla	119½ pounds	-	1,195	00
Tortoise shell	2,449 „	-	13,479	50
Beeswax	74 „	-	37	00
Total	- - -	-	140,230	86

EXPORTS to MASCATE for 1877.

			Rs.	cts.
Cocoa nuts	20,000	-	425	00

EXPORTS to REUNION for 1877.

			Rs.	cts.
Cocoa nut oil	6,153 velts	-	13,844	00
Cocoa nuts	40,750	-	865	98
Cocoa de mer nuts	12	-	18	00
Fish oil	15 velts	-	30	00
Hogs lard	560 pounds	-	210	00
Salt fish	4,050	-	243	00
Lemons	4,700	-	19	00
Oranges	1,100 pounds	-	33	00
Preserved fruits	- - -	-	28	00
Specie	- - -	-	7,140	40
Total	- - -	-	22,431	38

EXPORTS to MADAGASCAR.

			Rs.	cts.
Cocoa nuts	3,000	-	85	00
Cocoa nut oil	95 velts	-	211	75
Vacoa bags	38,000	-	1,140	00
Hogs lard	1,400 pounds	-	525	00
Preserved provisions	- - -	-	228	00
Straw work	- - -	-	335	00
Sundries	- - -	-	110	00
Specie	- - -	-	13,600	00
Total	- - -	-	16,234	75

EXPORTS to ENGLAND for 1877.

			Rs. cts.
Tortoise shell - - - -	50 pounds -		275 00
Shells - - - - -	- - -		300 00
Preserved turtle - - - -	- - -		450 00
Total - - -	- - -		1,025 00

EXPORTS, 1877.

Recapitulation.

	Ordinary Exports.		Specie.		Totals.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
Mauritius - - -	295,466	28	103,965	20	399,431	48
France - - -	123,364	86	3,866	00	127,230	86
Muscat - - - -	425	00	- - -		425	00
Reunion - - -	15,290	98	7,140	40	22,431	38
Madagascar - - -	2,634	75	13,600	00	16,234	75
England - - -	1,025	00	- - -		1,025	00
Total - - -	438,206	87	128,571	60	566,778	47
Re-exports to France of machinery.	- - -		- - -		13,000	00
Total exports - -	- - -		- - -		579,778	47

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No. 15.

Lieut.-General Sir A. PHAYRE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Mauritius, July 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to submit copy of a report dated the 25th of May last, by the Chief Civil Commissioner of the Seychelles Islands, on the condition of liberated Africans during the year 1877. This report is a précis of that rendered by the Acting Inspector of Africans under date the 20th of April 1878. Mr. Salmon's abstract gives sufficient information as to the number of liberated Africans on the several Islands of the group; their employment, wages, and rations; those working with employers as allotted by the Government, and those who follow various occupations after the period of allotment has been passed. I have not therefore forwarded the report of the Acting Inspector, which, though containing interesting and valuable information, is not well arranged.

2. From my own observation at the Seychelles, I am satisfied that the liberated Africans are well treated in every respect. It will be observed that the total number of persons of all ages actually present was, by the registers, 2,421. Of these, 305

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cannot be found. Considering the great number of Islands in the Seychelles group, 34 in all, besides other groups with which communication is kept up, it is to be expected that many of these Africans will go to them. Many, no doubt, cannot be traced in consequence of the registers of deaths of Africans being inaccurately entered. I have directed Mr. Salmon to make further inquiry upon that point.

3. As labourers in the Seychelles Islands are still much required, and as measures have now been adopted for their effectual protection, I would beg to request that the Admiral Commanding in the Indian Ocean should be instructed to send to Mahé such Africans as may be found on board dhows, as long as his Excellency is satisfied that the liberated slaves are well provided for in the Seychelles Islands. About 500 might be well provided for. The climate suits them very well.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) A. P. PHAYRE.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Liberated African Report, 1877.

The total number of liberated Africans in the Seychelles Islands in 1877 was 2,421, being 164 less than for the year 1876. The diminution is thus accounted for:—

Died - - - - - -	21
Transferred to Mauritius - - -	2
Died in former years - - - -	127
Transferred to Mauritius in former years -	14
	164

The real diminution for the year was 23. The approximate number of liberated Africans in Seychelles in 1876 should have been stated at 2,444, and not at 2,585 as reported. Some of the deaths and transfers in previous years, that had not been noted, having been recently traced.

The Africans on the Islands were distributed as follows:—

Mahé - -	1,693	North - -	6
Praslin - -	99	Sisters - -	4
Ladigue - -	77	Admirantes group -	54
Silhouette - -	104		2,116
Denis - -	27	Unknown -	305
Stag - -	29		
St. Anne - -	11	Total -	2,421
Frigate -	8		
Flat - -	4		

It will be seen above the whereabouts of 305 Africans was not known in 1877 against 338 in 1876. The question of what has become of these people has engaged much of my attention, and I conclude that the majority have died. It has been noted above that 125 former deaths have recently been traced, as well as 14 transfers to Mauritius.

It seems that in the registration office a number of deaths of Africans are recorded with no numbers attached. Now, the number originally given to an African on landing is the only means by which he can be traced, and in the African register no deaths are recorded except such as have numbers given, and it is evident that none other can be recorded in the usual way. However, I have requested the Inspector of Africans and the civil status officers to give a return of the death of every African from the first landing of these people at Seychelles. A comparison of two registers—the civil status and the African—will show how many deaths are unrecorded in the African register. By this method (which will take some time) it will be at all events known how many of the untraced Africans are presumably alive and how many are known to have died, and a separate report and return will be made when the information is complete. The Inspector informs me that, until recently, Africans proceeding to Mauritius with their masters or employers, who sometimes did not return, were not reported, and therefore their departure was not recorded and their whereabouts is not now known; 14, however, have recently been traced to Mauritius. Africans in former years were engaged on board merchant vessels, American whalers, and men-of-war, and no record of such engagements were kept and the Africans did not always return, having died, re-engaged in other vessels at foreign ports, or remained abroad. There are probably a certain number of these people on the numerous cultivated Islands, and Islands used as fishing stations, dependencies of Mauritius, that are not within the limits of the Seychelles Government, having gone away in former years without the knowledge of the keeper of the African registers.

The 1,608 Africans inspected at Mahé Island were employed as follows:—

Cultivation of the soil - - - -	521
Ordinary day and job labourers - - -	586
Cooks and servants - - - -	286
Married women who have not hired themselves -	139
Mechanics and factory labourers - - -	51
Seamen and fishermen - - - -	7
	1,590
Paupers, lepers, and lunatics - -	18
	1,608

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The number of Africans not inspected at Mahé Island was 85, as follows :—

Men occasionally under verbal engagement			-	44
Women	„	„	„ -	39
One boy allotted by Government			- -	1
One girl	„	„	- - -	1
				85

The two minors were not examined, being absent on each occasion the Inspector made his visits. The 83 men and women reported to be under verbal engagements rove about a good deal and supply the vagrant and criminal classes. The exact nature of their employment, when at work, could not be accurately ascertained.

The African does not take to the sea like the Creole; there were only three seamen and four fishermen registered among them at Mahé Island.

The rate of wages for liberated Africans on estates is generally inclusive of food, for labourers not on estates it is often exclusive of food.

The Africans allotted by Government always receive the rations laid down in the regulations up to the termination of their allotment.

The wages for allotted Africans, 250 men and 106 women of all ages, averaged Rs. 55.50 for the year, but an average of Rs. 7.50 per head was deducted for absences, leaving Rs. 48 per head for the year with food and lodging.

The average rate of wages per month, for 74 African men and 7 women, under written engagements was 12 rupees a month generally with no food or lodging.

The wages of 186 liberated Africans, ordinary day labourers, averaged about 10 rupees a month, but they were often idle. Of the 286 liberated African women, returned as day labourers, a portion do regular labour, a portion live with men working on estates or otherwise employed, and some lead a disorderly life.

The amount of wages earned by 159 liberated African men and 50 women, returned as working under verbal contract, could not be computed; they changed service frequently under different conditions and were often idle.

The halves system, *métairie*, locally known as "moitié, moitié," is preferred by the African when he can afford it; 100 men and 14 women were recognised as working on this system, and their average gain is computed at 14 rupees a month in ordinary years. They generally live in a hut on the ground cultivated, but they have to find themselves and they run the risk of failure of crop, which in 1877 was rather general. As a rule they seem to live comfortably and contentedly.

Thirteen African men and four women are returned as proprietors. The average value of the holding of each is computed to be worth 20 rupees a month.

Among the liberated African population of Mahé Island there were 139 married women who earned some wages, but generally they attend solely to household duties and work on the small patches of garden ground usually attached to their dwellings.

One hundred and seventeen minor Africans of both sexes received wages and rations, according to age, of from 2 to 4 rupees a month. When sent to missions or when residing with parents they receive no wages.

There were 202 allotted minor Africans at Mahé Island, 133 boys and 69 girls (including the 117 above referred to); of these 53 were under 10 years of age, 117 were from 10 to 14 years of age, and the remainder 32, whose ages varied from under 10 to 20 years, were with religious societies or parents.

The position of the African is quite as good as that of the creole, but he has the advantage of being preferred as a labourer. After his allotment service is over he is more or less of a skilled labourer, and he could earn more wages than he actually does were he to work with method and diligence. When a liberated African gets task work he usually does in five or six hours what in an ordinary way would take him eight or 10 hours; this shows that he is not overworked, and that he has a reserve of strength he might turn to account.

The following shows the general occupation of, and wages gained by, Africans who were inspected at Mahé Island:—

——	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	——
Allotted by Government -	250	106	—	—	356	Rs. 48 a year, with food and lodging.
Working under a written engagement entered into be themselves with a master.	74	7	—	—	81	Rs. 144 a year, generally with no food or lodging.
Working under a verbal engagement.	159	50	—	—	209	Can earn the same as above if willing to work steadily.
Designated as day labourers.	186	286	—	—	472	Rs. 120 a year for the man (not always employed); the wages of the women, for reasons before given, cannot be ascertained, but each could earn Rs. 100 a year.
Working on moitié, moitié system.	100	14	—	—	114	Rs. 168 a year (usually with lodging).
Proprietors - -	13	4	—	—	17	Rs. 20 a month.
Married women - -	—	—	—	—	139	When ready to work can earn from Rs. 8 to 10 a month.
Minor Africans, from 10 to 14 years of age.	—	—	83	34	117	From Rs. 24 to 48 a year, with board and lodging.
Minor Africans, under 10 years of age.	—	—	33	20	53	No wages, but they received clothing and lodging.
Minor Africans, from under 10 to 20 years of age, allotted to religious societies, or living with parents.	—	—	17	15	32	No wages.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Lepers, paupers, and lunatics.	12	6	—	—	18	
Total inspected -	—	—	—	—	1,608	
Not inspected in Mahé Island:—						
Minor Africans under allotment.	—	—	1	1	2	
Reported as under verbal engagements.	44	39	—	—	83	
Total liberated Africans in Mahé Island.	—	—	—	—	1,693	

It is while working under allotment that the African usually learns the labour he afterwards follows. He is considered the best cook, the best household servant, the best farm labourer, at Seychelles, compared with other available labour. The only other available labour is that of the creole, and it is not to be depended upon. The creole is a good labourer when it pleases him to work, and it very often does not please him to do so. But the cultivator requires a labour he can depend upon for a certain period. The African is much more to be depended upon for actual work than the creole, besides, he is more robust, and for ordinary farm work, or for the work usually done on estates, he is no doubt the better man.

Considering the climate the building accommodation found for liberated Africans is fairly good and quite equal to what they provide for themselves when their own masters. The Africans in Government service, the same as labourers of other races, have wooden huts, but all the others at Mahé Island have leaf huts. The average for the whole is 10 huts for 44 people. The 20 Government wooden buildings have three rooms each; the 60 leaf huts on private properties have 210 rooms between them. There is no difficulty or cost in building or repairing a leaf hut. As good a dwelling for the climate and the requirements of the African can be built with palm leaves as with almost any other material, and the cost, compared with wood, is trifling.

There were only six complaints of Africans against their employers during the year, carrying three convictions.

Nineteen men, 11 women, and three minors, all Africans allotted by Government, were sent to prison for desertion from their employers. Three men and five women, all Africans, whose term of allotment had expired, and who were free to work as they pleased, were convicted for vagrancy. One minor African boy was convicted for larceny with breaking, five for larceny of produce, two for other larcenies, and one for possessing stolen property. Four allotted African men were convicted for larceny with breaking, two for larceny of produce, seven for other larcenies, and three for possessing stolen property. Of African men whose allotment time had finished, one is on his trial for manslaughter, two were convicted for drugging, one for arson, three for wounds and blows, one for threats, one for outrage

towards public officers, one for embezzlement, and three for larceny with breaking. Of African women whose allotment term had finished, one was convicted for larceny of produce, one for another larceny, and one for possessing stolen property.

The above shows—

250 African men allotted by Government -	Desertions -	7½ per cent.
	Larcenies -	6 „
	Other offences	nil.
106 African women allotted by Government -	Desertions -	10 „
	Larcenies -	nil.
	Other offences	nil.
204 African boys and girls -	Desertions -	1½ „
	Larcenies, boys	9½ „
	„ girls	nil.
	Other offences	nil.

African men, free labourers, that is to say, whose allotment term has expired:—

Proprietors - - -		13	
Working on moitié moitié system - - -		100	
Ordinary day and job labourers - - -		186	
Working under written contract - - -		74	
Working under verbal engagement:—			
Inspected -	159		
Not inspected -	44		
		203	
Total - -		576	

	per cent.
Vagrancy - -	½
Larcenies - -	½
Other offences	1·7

African women, free labourers:—

Proprietors - - -		4	
Working on moitié moitié system - - -		14	
Ordinary day labourers -		286	
Working under written engagement - -		7	
Working under verbal engagement:—			
Inspected - -	50		
Not inspected -	39		
		89	
Married women not regularly engaged in labour - -		139	
Total -		539	

	per cent.
Vagrancy, under -	1
Larcenies, over -	½
Other offences -	nil.

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Marriages among liberated Africans have much increased of late, being 115 during the two years 1876–77 against 30 during the three years 1873–74–75 for the wards of Mahé and Silhouette Islands. The good effect of this on the African man is known to be considerable; it gives him a home with its moral tendencies. It is needless to say the moral effect on the woman is even more considerable. I anticipate that shortly there will be very few African women not settled in a home. As a rule, liberated Africans marry only among themselves. Recently, however, there have been a few instances of their intermarriage with creoles.

The deaths of liberated Africans in 1876 were 21. In 1877 they were 18, or a death rate of about 10 per 1,000 for these people for the wards of Mahé and Silhouette Islands; one of the lowest death rates ever recorded.

In 1876 there were 40 male and 36 female children, total 76, born in the wards of Mahé and Silhouette Islands from liberated African parents. In 1877 the numbers were 30 male and 51 female children, total 81. In 1876 it is recorded that 4 male children and 1 female child were stillborn, in 1877 the numbers were 6 male and 3 female children. In 1876 the births were $3\frac{5}{8}$ to 1 death, in 1877 they were $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 death. In 1876 the stillborn births came to 1 in 15, in 1877 they were 1 in 9, a large proportion.

The food the African receives or obtains himself seems every way suitable. The articles he prefers in the way of root crops, vegetables, and fruits grow abundantly in these Islands, and he is not particular as to the quality of his fish; any kind not unwholesome from a shark to the smallest that can be caught will serve him. And he likes cocoa-nut oil. He can do without rice and imported food. That he is well fed his appearance demonstrates. Those Africans yet under allotment by Government and all minors receive at the least the regular rations laid down in the regulations, but generally they get extras. In fact, they live pretty well as their masters do or as the average creole does, only the African has a large appetite and he eats more abundantly.

There were 176 Africans inspected at Praslin and Ladigue Islands. The nature and amount of work, rations, pay, and accommodations were about the same in proportion as at Mahé Island. There were 154 Africans inspected at Silhouette, Stag, St. Anne, North, and Sisters Islands. These latter Islands are each the property of one or two private people, and all liberated Africans on them were rationed. The wages and lodgings were about the same as in the other Islands. The inducements for absenting themselves from labour being less than in the larger Islands, the yearly amount of wages received per head was more.

The 330 people on these seven Islands were employed as follows :—

Cultivating the soil - - - -	200
Labourers (including 22 married women) -	72
Servants and cooks - - - -	38
Fishermen and employed in boats - -	14
Working on the moitié moitié system -	4
Shopkeeper - - - -	1
Proprietor - - - - -	1
Total - - -	330

Their position was as follows :—

Islands.	Serving under Allotment by Government.				Serving under written Engagement.		Serving under verbal Engagement.*		Total.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
Praslin - -	12	6	6	3	2	—	37	33	99
Ladigue - -	21	5	4	2	10	—	17	18	77
Silhouette -	21	12	2	1	41	1	11	15	104
North - -	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	6
Sisters - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Stag - -	4	1	1	3	—	—	10	10	29
St. Anne - -	5	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	11
Total -	63	25	17	10	54	1	80	80	330

Two Africans at Praslin Island were brought before the magistrate there for blows and wounds; one was acquitted and one was sent to gaol for three months. There are no other breaches of

* The four people working on the "moitié" "moitié" system and the one shopkeeper at Praslin and one proprietor at Ladigue, having verbal understandings with the landowners, are here included.

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the law recorded separately against Africans in these Islands. Complaints from the Islands nearer to Mahé are taken to the court there.

The ward of Praslin does not include the four Islands Silhouette, North, Stag, and St. Anne above mentioned. The births, marriages, and deaths at these Islands are declared at Mahé. The births of five males and six females born from liberated African parents were registered in the Praslin ward in 1876, and those of four males and six females in 1877. Two African men and one woman died in 1876, one man and three women in 1877. In 1876 there were five marriages, in 1877 there were three.

The 27 Africans at Denis Island, the eight at Frigate Island, and four at Flat Island were not inspected in 1877, neither were the 54 at the Admirantes group since 1876, when a police serjeant was sent there to report.

The following shows the position of the Africans on these Islands :—

Islands.	Serving under Allotment by Government.				Serving under written Engagement.		Serving under verbal Engagement.		Total.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
Denis - -	2	4	4	5	—	—	6	6	27
Frigate - -	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	8
Flat - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Admirantes -	6	—	—	—	23	6	7	12	54
Total -	13	5	4	5	25	6	16	19	93

The above Islands were inspected, with the exception of Flat Island (situated about 60 miles south of Mahé), in 1876; there were no minor Africans at the distant Islands. The position of the liberated Africans in the above Islands is in every respect about the same as at Mahé Island.

POSITION of LIBERATED AFRICANS in the SEYCHELLES ISLANDS. SEYCHELLES.

Islands.	Serving under Allotment by Government.				Working under voluntary written Engagement.		Working under voluntary verbal Engagement.		Total.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
Mahé - -	250	106	134	70	74	7	502	532	1,675
Praslin - -	12	6	6	3	2	—	37	33	99
Ladigue - -	21	5	4	2	10	—	17	18	77
Silhouette -	21	12	2	1	41	1	11	15	104
North - -	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	6
Sisters - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Stags - -	4	1	1	3	—	—	10	10	29
St. Anne - -	5	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	11
Denis - -	2	4	4	5	—	—	6	6	27
Frigate - -	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	8
Flat - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Admirantes -	6	—	—	—	23	6	7	12	54
Total -	326	136	155	85	153	14	598	631	2,098
			Lepers, paupers, and lunatics - -						18
			Unknown - - - -						305
			Total - - -						2,421

In 1877 there were 462 adult liberated Africans working with masters to whom they had been allotted by Government for five years. During the current and the next year the allotment term of all will have expired and they will be free to do as they please. These are the only adult Africans for whose pay, accommodation, and rations the Government is responsible. The 240 minors will have to remain under the guardianship of the Government, with masters, with the Government, with parents, or in institutions until they each attain the age of 20 years, when they will be at liberty to do as they please. The Government, meanwhile, is responsible that they receive the pay, rations, and accommodations laid down by law, or a full equivalent. The 1,396 adult liberated Africans under written and verbal engagements (including those working on the moitié moitié system, proprietors, and married women) are under the protection of the Chief Civil Commissioner and the Inspector of Africans; they are free to work and engage themselves on such terms as they please, but the Government is not responsible for the amount of their pay or rations.

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 16.

Governor Sir W. C. F. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Singapore,
November 7, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of these Settlements for the year 1877, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary upon the Settlement of Singapore. I further enclose the reports of the Lieut.-Governors of Penang and Malacca upon those Settlements for the same year, and the financial report of the Auditor-General upon the three Settlements.

2. I regret that the transmission of the Blue Book and the accompanying reports should have been so long delayed. In obtaining the necessary documents from so many different and widely separated offices much time is necessarily occupied, but I will endeavour to forward the returns at an earlier date in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

SINGAPORE.

REPORT on SINGAPORE for the Year 1877.

EARLY in the year under review it was found to be advisable to raise by Colonial debentures a loan of 150,000*l.* sterling. This necessity arose from numerous advances which have been made to the Malayan Native States, as well as from the war expenditure incurred in 1875–76. Taking this drawback, however, into consideration, the financial position of this Colony has appreciably advanced during the year 1877.

Assets and Liabilities.

The net balance to the credit of the Colony (after deducting certain unexpected balances of amounts appropriated for public works by surplus Supply Ordinances) has risen from $402,099 on 31st December 1876 to $462,247 on 31st December 1877, an increase amounting to nearly 15 per cent.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year was $1,723,466, showing an increase over that of the preceding year of $64,432, and this, too, notwithstanding an important decrease under the head of "Postal Revenue" amounting to $23,947. This falling off was to be expected from the alteration of the rates of postage to Europe, as well as from a change of system in regard to the Manilla and Netherlands' India mails.

The gross expenditure from revenue was $1,602,105, as compared with $1,544,143 in 1876, showing an increase of $57,962.

The introduction of Ordinances II. and III., 1877, for the protection of Chinese immigrants rendered necessary the creation of a new department and an increased expenditure of $8,225. This forms the chief element in the increase of expenditure on establishments, which amounts in all to $12,361.

Under the head of "Native States" the increase of $2,498 is accounted for by presents to native chiefs, and the salary of the Secretary to Native States of $1,247.

Partly owing to the unfavourable rates of exchange for remitting money to England, and partly to the fact that larger sums were borrowed here and in England, the item "Interest" presents an increase, when compared with that of 1876, of $23,500.

Legislation.

The first Bill which was passed by the Legislative Council in the session of 1877 was the Straits Settlements Loan Bill, to which allusion has already been made elsewhere.

Ordinance II., 1877, "for the Protection of Chinese Immigrants," and Ordinance III., "Crimping Bill," were passed to ameliorate the condition of Chinese immigrant coolies. The institution of a new department thus entailed upon the Colony a permanent additional expense of $8,225 per annum, but the advantage of this new method of controlling the disposal of coolies on their arrival in the Colony, and of ensuring their fair treatment upon employment, have already become most apparent.

The word "crimping" used in the title of Ordinance III. is applicable to the conduct of the coolie brokers on the arrival of immigrants, as well as to their conduct in collecting emigrants, in both of which positions there was urgent need of reformation and supervision.

The nature and constitution of the department for the protection of Chinese have already elsewhere been fully reported.

Ordinance IV. provides for "the more convenient administration of the Imperial Extradition Acts of 1870 and 1873."

Ordinance V., 1877, is intended "to amend Ordinance VI. of 1872," leaving it in the power of the Governor in Council to deport dangerous persons when he is satisfied of the danger to the public safety and peace.

The necessity for this Ordinance has lately been proved in the recent riot at Nebong Tebal, when the impossibility of procuring

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

evidence from native sources which would suffice to bring the chief movers in that disturbance to justice in the ordinary course of law was brought to the notice of Government in the most distinct way by the authorities best qualified to judge in the matter.

That this Ordinance was put in force on that occasion, and that the principal offender, Tan ah Hum, was deported, has been already reported in detail.

Ordinance VI., 1877, "for the safe detention of Sultan Abdullah, of Perak," and Ordinance VII., introduced as "the Perak Prisoners' Bill," were temporary measures necessitated by the disturbances in Perak which resulted in the murder of the late Mr. Birch.

Ordinance VIII. relates to the amendment of steam boilers.

Ordinance IX. relates to the Singapore Water Rate.

Ordinance X. was introduced as the final Supply Bill for 1876.

Ordinance XI. as the Supply Bill for 1878.

All the above Ordinances have received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance.

Police.

The Acting Inspector-General of Police reports that the year 1877 was unusually free from those riots and general disturbances which have been of late years of frequent occurrence. This immunity from disturbances he attributes, no doubt rightly, to the prompt and vigorous action taken by the Government after the Chinese riots at the end of 1876, and in an equal degree to the Chinese Immigration Ordinances II. and III., 1877, which have given increased confidence in this Government to the Chinese population, and which have already appreciably lessened the power of the local secret societies.

Crime shows a considerable increase when compared with the previous year, the cases numbering 20,080, as against 16,285 in 1876; but I am happy to add that the report shows that this increase is confined to crimes of minor importance.

The conduct of the force has been fairly satisfactory, notably that of the sergeants and native sergeant-majors.

The expenditure under the head of "Pensions" shows a decrease of $12,049 from the sum expended in 1876, which decrease is principally to be ascribed to a payment in that year of $14,406 arrears of pension from 1867 and a payment in 1877 of $2,388 pension from July 1874.

Hospitals.

During the year under review there were admitted into the hospitals of the Straits Settlements 783 Europeans and 11,588 natives, making, together with the 1,023 remaining in hospital at the beginning of the year, a total of 13,364 cases treated.

There were 29 deaths among the Europeans and 1,368 from the native portion, or 3·7 and 11·8 per cent. upon the sick respectively.

There were few cases of cholera and small-pox in Singapore during the year.

In Penang and Province Wellesley 214 deaths were registered from the latter, 42 from the former epidemic.

Gaols.

There were 324 long and short sentenced European prisoners during the year in the criminal gaol of Singapore, the native portion of both classes numbered 2,894. The health of Europeans was uniformly good and their conduct satisfactory.

Two long-sentenced prisoners escaped from the criminal prison through the negligence of a native warder, but both were subsequently recaptured.

A report upon the gaols of Penang and Malacca will be found in the separate reports of the Lieut.-Governors on those Settlements.

Education.

The work of the education department throughout the year has dealt chiefly with the improvement, rather than with the extension of the existing materials, and the standard of instruction has accordingly been appreciably raised throughout the Colony. It is encouraging to note that some 4 per cent. of the population have been at school during the year 1877, whereas in 1872 the proportion was only 2·5 per cent.

During the same period the average attendance has advanced from 73 to 77 per cent. in the English, and from 67 to 75 in the vernacular schools. The fees received have accordingly risen from $591 to $1,004 in the Government schools, and in the other schools from $6,858 to $7,610.

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the imports to, and exports from Singapore in the year 1877, as compared with 1876:—

IMPORTS from—

—	1877.	1876.
	$	$
United Kingdom - - -	13,217,940	10,252,234
British Colonies - - -	16,999,848	17,055,094
Foreign countries - - -	19,109,529	18,158,642

EXPORTS to—

	$	$
United Kingdom - - -	7,975,402	6,719,787
British Colonies - - -	7,881,996	8,991,175
Foreign Countries - - -	25,571,009	24,903,821

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A general increase is noticeable in the importation of hardware during the year under review, and the item "Coal" shows an advance of $535,745, "Arms and Ammunition" of $24,166.

The imports from the British Colonies show a decrease of $55,246 in the three items of "Wearing Apparel," "Salted Provisions," and "Rattans."

The item of "Cotton Sarongs" shows an advance of $85,813 over the amount imported in 1876, when the importation of this article of commerce practically commenced.

The total imports of the three Settlements show an increase of $3,861,243 over the amount of 1876.

The export of Gambier to the United Kingdom shows an increase of $521,023, of gutta percha of $612,248, while hides, sago, and black pepper each show considerable advance upon the amounts exported in the previous year.

The exportation of opium and specie to British Colonies together show a decrease of $1,109,179.

Tin was exported largely during 1877 to foreign countries, so as to show an advance of $518,079 over the amount exported in 1876.

The total exports of 1877 accordingly show an advance of $1,255,615. But this increase is attributed by the master attendant rather to the greater care with which merchants in the Colony have sent in their permits to Government during the year than to any appreciable progress of the trade of the Settlements.

Shipping Returns.

The following three comparative statements show the rigs and proportions of steamers and sailing vessels which entered the three ports of the Colony in 1876 and 1877 :—

	1876.		1877.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
SINGAPORE.				
Schooners - -	308	10,746	284	17,719
Brigs - - -	47	9,160	40	7,960
Barques - - -	345	168,572	365	170,210
Ships - - -	69	74,907	55	55,834
Steamers - -	1,380	1,191,304	1,426	1,206,013
PENANG.				
Schooners - -	227	16,713	211	14,557
Brigs - - -	31	6,350	15	3,047
Barques - - -	89	38,082	85	38,688
Ships - - -	20	19,269	19	17,650
Steamers - -	1,323	716,510	1,333	721,714

	1876.		1877.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
MALACCA.				
Steamers - -	—	—	—	—
Barques, brigs, and schooners - -	539	156,642	544	83,621

General.

The large sum of $10,000 was expended upon the upkeep of roads in Province Wellesley, which are now in serviceable condition.

The completion of the waterworks in Singapore has afforded to the community a sufficient supply of water, which, upon analysis, has proved to be of excellent quality for drinking purposes. The expenditure necessary for the completion of these works was $61,769.

CECIL J. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 17.

Lieut.-Governor's Office, Penang,
July 5, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you my report on the Blue Book returns of this Settlement for the year 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Singapore.

PENANG.

PENANG.

Revenue, Expenditure.

1. While the expenditure was less by $1,452, the revenue exceeded that of the previous year by $116,501.

2. This large increase of revenue was due to the "opium and spirits" and "pawnbroker" farms having been re-let at an advance of $161,412 upon the rent previously obtained for them. The items "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court, Reimbursements," "Interest," and "Special Receipts," showed respectively augmentations of $4,631, $4,264, $500, and $1,104. Against these augmentations there were the following diminutions: Land Revenue, $37,913; Rents, exclusive of land, $698; Port and Harbour dues, $484; and Postage, $3,376. The total revenue amounted to $602,925, or about $450,000 more than the revenue of the year 1857.

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3. The receipts from land were less than those of the previous year by the considerable sum of $37,913, but greater by $784 than the average of those of the five years antecedent to that year. The revenue from land in 1876 was, as explained in the "Blue Book" report for that year, exceptionally large, and this will account for its great apparent falling off.

4. The increase in the receipts from "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court" was made up of the sums of $190 from the Supreme Court, $4,360 from the Police Magistrates Courts, and $154 from "Miscellaneous," after deducting the decrease of $74 under the head of "Police."

5. The increase of $500 under the head of "Interest" indicates the larger current balance at credit in the bank, due to the greater amount of the current receipts lodged in it.

6. The "Special Receipts" were augmented by $1,551 collected under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, but educed by $447 on account of "Lock Hospital charges recovered."

7. There was a decrease of expenditure under each of the following heads:—Salaries, $4,970; Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishments, $2,782; Education, $507; Government Vessels, $706; Rent, $331; "Roads, Streets, and Bridges," $15,357; Military, $782, &c.; in all, $25,493. At the same time an increase took place under the following heads:—Office Contingencies, $820; Pensions, Retiring Allowances, Gratuities, $1,465; Administration of Justice, $178; Medical, $3,347; Gaols, $1,596; Rent, $636; Miscellaneous Services, $1,283; Works and Buildings, $11,266; Special Expenses, $2,333, &c.; in all $24,041.

8. The principal saving under the head of Salaries was $8,193 in the Judicial Establishment. This was due to the abolition of the office of Judge of Penang, and to changes in the Registrar's Office. The other items of saving under this head amounted to $8,203, and were as follow:—Lieut.-Governor's Establishment, $1,105, due to the appointment of Lieut.-Governor having been held for seven months by an acting officer on half salary; Public Works and Survey Departments, $630, the Assistant Surveyor having drawn only half salary whilst on leave; Harbour Department, $371, the Harbour Master having been on half-pay leave; Registration Department, under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, $333, the Acting Deputy Registrar having drawn only half-salary during the absence on leave of the Deputy Registrar; Summary side of the Supreme Court, $2,750, that branch of this Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which was formerly the Court of Requests, having been abolished; Registrar's Branch, $2,085, on account of the new appointment of Deputy Registrar; Attorney-General's Department, $1,144, the increase of salary to the Solicitor-General not having been approved by the Secretary of State; Police Court, Penang, $469, and in Province Wellesley, $133, owing to Magistrates drawing only half-pay while on leave; Sheriff's Department, $428, a Bailiff having been removed from the Department to that of the Court of Requests; Ecclesiastical,

$772, the Chaplain having resigned, and the Acting Chaplain having drawn only half salary; Police, Penang, $62.

9. The items of increase were:—On account of the newly established Chinese Branch of the Lieut.-Governor's establishment, $50; Land Department, $346, owing to the salary of the Bailiff having been transferred from "Revenue Services" (Item 3 of the Estimates) to Establishments; (Item 1) Treasury, $22; Registrar's Department Supreme Court, $2,085, on account of the salary of the new appointment of Deputy Registrar; Medical Department, $646, some of the apothecaries and the dressers' salaries having been increased; Police, Province Wellesley, $159, due to inspectors drawing higher rates of salary being stationed in this Settlement; Gaol, $418, the gaoler,* and some of the warders, having drawn higher salaries; Court of Requests, $2,875, this Court having been re-established; Department of Protector of Indian Immigrants, $4,820, being a new establishment, as provided for under the Immigration Ordinance.

10. Small silver coin, 20, 10, and 5 cent. pieces, to the value of $10,000, was received from England; and with $16,800 worth of copper coin, previously received, was circulated; of the latter $7,000 worth was sent to the native State of Perak.

Local Revenue.

11. The collections made by the Municipality amounted to $128,895, showing an increase over those of the preceding year of $5,086.

12. The heads of revenue under which an increase greater than $400 took place were the following:— Land Rates, $2,911; Domestic Water Rates $792; Water supplied to Shipping, $550; Rates on houses in town, $458, and in the country, in Prince of Wales' Island, $476; Jetty rent and Wharf fees, $435; Taxes on licensed carriages in Province Wellesley, $422. The heads under which a corresponding decrease occurred were:—Taxes on licensed carriages in Prince of Wales' Island, $439; Rent of ground in Prangin Road, $555; and Rates on land in Province Wellesley, $413.

13. The total under the head of increase amounted to $7,779, and under that of decrease, to $2,693. The principal items of increase of expenditure were:—Commission on Collections, $437; Land expenses, $593; Interest on loan, $3,651; Salaries of a fitter and an assistant fitter, for laying the new line of water pipes, $621; Expenses connected with laying the new line of pipes, $4,146; three water meters, and attendant expenses, $939; Scavengering in town and country in Prince of Wales' Island and Province Wellesley, $925; New wharf walls and reclamation with landing shed on it at the south side of the Jetty, $6,207;†

* In consequence of the services he rendered during the outbreak in the Singapore Gaol, at the time the Superintendent of Prisons was killed.

† The total cost of this wharf and reclamation has been $12,357; viz., piling, $2,560; planks for foundation, $353; granite, $3,886; masons' wages and materials, $2,018; overseer, $111; and filling in, $3,427. The length of the wharf wall is 170 feet; and the area reclaimed, 28,500 feet. The cost of the shed has been $3,117.

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up-keep of Roads and Bridges, $8,653, and of Retaining Walls, $877. Altogether the expenditure was $2,925 less than in the previous year, and left a balance to the credit of the revenue of 1878 of $3,057.

14. The sum of $24,432, of which $7,269 were current revenue, and the remainder was borrowed, was expended on the new waterworks, as follows:—Pipe-fitters and overseers, $2,252; cutting trench and laying and caulking pipes, $7,698; constructing a receiving cistern and a portion of a reserve reservoir at the pipe head at the waterfall, $3,533; erecting brick pillars for supporting pipes, and repairs, &c., to bridges and culverts, $168; compensation for depositing pipes and cutting down cocoa-nut trees in plantations, $235; tools and smith's work, $621; 14 inch pipes, $8,084; landing and carting pipes, $939; sundries, $392.

In 1876 the sum of $60,000 was borrowed for the new waterworks. These works consist chiefly of a line of 16-inch pipes, 6,600 feet in length, which replaces the former 9-inch line for that distance from the waterfall, and to the end of which is joined the remainder of the old 9-inch main laid into the town by Burmah Road and Chulia Street, and of a new 14-inch main, 18,480 feet long, laid along Penang Road to Prangin Bridge, at the end of Beach Street in town. The whole of this new line was completed by the end of the year; and the total cost of it up to that date was $81,709, of which $21,732 was paid from current municipal revenue. A further considerable expenditure of current revenue will be required to complete the distribution of water to streets and houses. The outlay during the year on the upkeep of the old waterworks was only $862.

15. The increased expenditure, $3,651, under the head of "Interest" is accounted for by the interest, at 8 per cent., payable on the $60,000 borrowed for the waterworks. Previously to contracting this loan the municipal debt had been reduced to $26,200; its present amount is now, therefore, $86,200; on which the sum of $6,494 per annum is payable as interest.

16. The revenue collected during the past year, and septennially between it and the year 1849,* is exhibited below, for the purpose of showing the rate at which it has increased.†

		$		$
1849	- -	27,965		
1856	- -	44,002	increase	16,037
1863	- -	55,700	„	11,698
1870	- -	86,734	„	31,034
1877	- -	128,895	„	42,161
	Total increase -	-		100,930

* The municipal committee was first appointed in 1848, by Indian Act, No. IX., which came into operation on the 1st January 1849.

† In the year 1867, the year of the "Transfer," the revenue was $66,344.

17. The portions of the above collected in Province Wellesley alone during the same periods were:—

		$		$
1849	- -	5,077		
1856	- -	10,033	increase	4,956
1863	- -	15,661	„	5,628
1870	- -	22,424	„	6,763
1877	- -	25,620	„	3,196
Total increase	- -			20,543

18. The increase in the revenue was very largely expended on the improvement of the roads in the Island, as will be appare from the augmented expenditure on macadam alone.

			$
In 1866 there was spent on this material,			1,776
„ 1867	„	„	4,082
„ 1868	„	„	6,117
„ 1869	„	„	7,559
„ 1877	„	„	13,395

During the last few years about $50,000 per annum have been spent on roads, streets, and bridges in the Island. The effect of this expenditure is apparent from the increased traffic, which is thus indicated:—

	1867.	1877.	Increase.
There were kept in Prince of Wales' Island alone,			
Private carriages - - - -	156	200	44
Licensed carriages - - - -	336	490	154
Licensed carts - - - -	498	956	458
Total - -	990	1,646	656

or an increase of 66 per cent. of wheel traffic in 10 years.

19. The following denotes the increase in the rates of monthly wages paid by the Municipal Commissioners in 1877, as compared with those paid in 1867:—

	1867.	1877.
	$ cts.	$ cts.
Indian coolies, not being new immigrants -	3 30	3 90
Masons - - - - -	12 00	13 00
Carpenters - - - - -	12 00	13 00
Chinese coolies - - - -	4 80	6 00

This rise in wages is principally due to the increased price of provisions consequent on the war in Achin, and to the demand for labour for tobacco cultivation in the neighbouring native States under Dutch rule in Sumatra.

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Public Works.

20. The sum expended on public works amounted to $71,214, a sum less by about $21,821 than the average of what had been annually spent during the three preceding years; but greater by about $12,902 than the average annual expenditure during the four years 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1873. The expenditure on civil buildings was $35,607, about $6,000 more than the average of that of the preceding seven years; on military buildings, $11,171, about $5,000 over that average; on roads, streets, and bridges, $22,524, about $10,000 below that average, and $15,000 less than during the previous year.

21. The sum of $9,770 was paid for the site of the proposed Chinese Town Hall.

22. The principal works executed were :—Additions and alterations to the new gaol at Datu Kramat; the conversion of the old gaol at Chowrasta into a general and lock hospital; asphalting four wards and two latrines at the Pauper Hospital; special alterations to Government House on the hill; providing additional accommodation at the Quarantine Station; converting a store at the Government offices into an office for the Protector of Indian Immigrants; constructing at the Government brick fields a depôt for Indian immigrants; and the addition of a new ward at the Pauper Hospital.

23. The outlay of the special vote for repairs covered the cost of the repairs to the sea wall at the Marine police quarters in town; and of the re-attaping of the police stations in Province Wellesley.

24. The cost of the maintenance of public buildings has augmented with the increase in the number and extent of public buildings; and this augmentation has been the greater because most of these buildings have been constructed of wood and attaps, which being perishable materials require continual repairs and frequent renewals. The up-keep of the Free School, and of the Pauper Hospital, of both of which buildings the extent has been greatly increased, is now undertaken by Government, and is a considerable addition to the charges against the vote for general repairs.

25. Notwithstanding the most careful supervision the vote $5,000 for current repairs was exceeded by $1,500,* and it is estimated that not less than $7,000 per annum will be required for this purpose in future. By comparing the amounts annually provided in the estimates for "up-keep" at Singapore with those provided for the same purpose at this Settlement it will be found that while in 1872 there was voted for that Settlement $8,600, last year $12,000, and provision has been made in the budget for 1878 for $15,000, there was voted for this Settlement for the year 1872 $4,963, for last year $4,000, and the vote for 1878 is $5,000; or whilst the amount voted for repairs at this

* In the previous year, it was exeeeded by $1,000.

Settlement increased by only $37, that for the same purpose at Singapore increased by $6,400.

26. The new works executed by Government in Province Wellesley under the head of "Roads and Bridges" were:—Metalling the road from Bertam, by Telok Ayer Tawar, to Bagan Ajam, with the exception of a portion of the latter part of it which, owing to failure on the part of the contractor, in not supplying macadam in accordance with the terms of his contract, was left uncompleted, and the construction of three small stone bridges.

27. It is estimated that the sum of $183,486* would be necessary to meet all the road requirements in Province Wellesley, towards this $28,000 have been voted for the year 1878, in addition to $10,000 for ordinary maintenance.

28. The military works executed were:—The building of a commissariat store at Fort Cornwallis, to accommodate the stores that were formerly at the arsenal, which had been exchanged for the property adjoining the compound of the Supreme Court, known as Anderton Lodge; the construction of a gymnasium at the Infantry Lines; the improvement of the rifle range; and providing temporary accommodation for the head-quarters of a European regiment.

Survey Branch.

29. Owing to the absence during the whole year of one of the assistant surveyors, the work of this branch of the Public Works Department shows a decrease, as compared with that of the previous year. The area of allotments surveyed was 2,352 acres, or 1,548 acres less than in the preceding year, but private surveys were more numerous than in 1876. Special surveys which included a less area than those made in that year, comprised a complete circuit of 35 miles, or 8,904 acres, at Bukit Mertajam. The new 12-inch theodolite arrived from England in November, but too late, as it was then the wet season, for any progress in the Trigonometrical Survey to be made before the close of the year.

Police.

30. The police force, authorised for the whole Settlement consisted of 1 superintendent, 2 assistant superintendents, 9 inspectors, 6 sub-inspectors, 2 native sergeant-majors, 15 sergeants,

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		$.	cts.
* 1.	Metalling 1st class roads	112,148	96
2.	Constructing and repairing bridges	9,460	00
3.	Special repairs to 2nd class roads	4,252	82
4.	„ „ 3rd „	5,339	95
5.	Completing roads already traced and commenced	49,205	20
6.	Proposed new roads	3,080	00
	Total	183,486	93

The construction of bridges is exclusive of a bridge across the Pry river, which alone is estimated to cost about $70,000.

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40 corporals, and 100 first, 100 second, and 180 third class constables, making the whole strength of the force 455 of all ranks; of the above, 278 were employed at 21 stations in Prince of Wales' Island, and 177 at 19 stations in Province Welesslley.

31. The first class constables received $7, the second class $6, and the third class $5 each per mensem; while at Singapore the same classes received respectively $8, $7, and $6. Provision has, however, been made in the estimates for 1878 for providing for those three classes the same rates of salary as are received by the corresponding classes at Singapore. But, by the alteration made in the number in each class, only 40 first class and 180 third class constables will benefit by this act of grace: and while in Singapore, in which Settlement the necessaries of life are no longer dearer than in Penang, 100 constables will receive $8 per mensem, and 150 constables $7, in Penang only 40 constables will receive $8, and 60 constables $7.

32. It is almost impossible, at present, to obtain good and fit men to serve in the force, and this new arrangement will not be sufficient encouragement to the youths of the better class of the native population to adopt the police as their profession; some more liberal measure is urgently demanded for the general improvement of this important branch of the public service.

33. Some of the non-commissioned officers are intelligent and efficient, but owing to the low rates of pay many of the constables are only the refuse of the Kling community, who having failed in every other employment have been forced to fall back for a livelihood on the calling of a police constable; and others are Malays of the lowest class, ignorant, and fresh from either the paddy field or the jungle.

34. The numbers of persons brought before the magistrates by the police were as follow:—

In Prince of Wales' Island, on summons	- 2,007	
„ „ charges	- 5,946	
		7,953
In Province Wellesley, on summons	- 1,112	
„ „ charges -	- 2,221	
		3,333
Total -		- 11,286

35. The receipts of the department were:—

	$.	$.	
In Prince of Wales' Island,	15,596, or	1,439	more than in 1876.
„ Province Wellesley -	8,302, or	2,324	„ „
Total -	23,898, or	3,763	„ „

36. Two inspectors were prosecuted for illegally receiving gratifications, and dismissed the service; besides whom, 30 non-commissioned officers and constables were prosecuted and imprisoned for the following offences: 5, assault and criminal force; 1, affray; 4, illegally withdrawing from the force; 1, criminal force; 9, theft; 1, breach of revenue laws; 8, neglect of duty; and 1, retaining stolen property.

37. The consequence of the opium farm having, when it was re-let, passed from the hands of persons belonging to the Toh Peh Kong secret society into those of some of their inveterate enemies, the Ghi Hin secret society, was a great deal of bad feeling between those two rival societies, which from time to time caused much trouble and anxiety to the police. The Mahomedan red flag and white flag societies were also very troublesome, especially in Province Wellesley. All the secret societies are on the increase, and their influence is extremely mischievous, as well as, at times, dangerous to the peace of the community. They not only augment and encourage crime, but, in some cases, by largely bribing, in others by fiercely intimidating witnesses and by producing false evidence, prevent the police from successfully prosecuting in cases of crime in which any of their members have been implicated. The red flag and white flag societies endeavour to magnify the most trivial insult offered by a member of the one society to a member of the other into a serious crime, and waste the time of the police and magistrates by bringing numbers of false witnesses into court to corroborate their exaggerated complaints; at other times these trivial insults lead to disturbances between the two societies, and frequently to serious affrays.

38. The operation of the Indian Immigration Ordinance in Province Wellesley added very considerably to the work of the police, increased the expenditure under the heads of "conveyance" and "rations for prisoners," and created the necessity for considerable additional police cell accommodation at some of the principal police stations.

Gaols.

39. It was found necessary, on account of the outbreak of cholera in the old gaol, to take into occupation the new gaol at Datu Kramat before it was quite completed. This occurred on the 1st June, when 183 criminal prisoners were transferred to the new buildings.

40. Immediately on the outbreak of cholera, 90 criminal and 10 civil prisoners, whose sentences were within one month of expiry, were released, in order to remedy the overcrowding in the prison wards, and check the spread of the disease. The remainder of the prisoners were transferred on the 10th September.

41. The new gaol affords accommodation for 346 criminal prisoners, as follows:—

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New cellular wards - - - -	200
No. 1 Association ward - - - -	60
No. 2 do do. - - - -	20
Old Lunatic Asylum, now included within the prison - - - - -	60
Old cells in civil prison yard - - -	6

Provision in the estimates has been made towards the cost of the construction of 100 additional cells; but, although they will be commenced in 1878, they are not likely to be completed until the latter end of the year 1879, and further provision will require to be made on account of them in the estimates for that year.

42. For some time after the occupation of the new gaol the prisoners were employed in carting materials for raising and levelling the prison yard, and in consequence of that and the stone-breaking shed not having been completed no stone breaking was carried on; but this description of labour has since been resumed. Shot drill has been discontinued since September 1875.

43. There was an increase of 523 males and 9 females in the number admitted as criminal prisoners. The total number of admissions was 2,181, of whom 25 were females. The average daily number in prison was 271·5; the greatest number confined at any time, 369; the number admitted into hospital, 606; the average daily number of sick, 25·68; the number of deaths, 39. 306 prisoners have been previously imprisoned twice, and 221 three or more times. 95 prisoners were Europeans and Eurasians, 924 Chinese, 138 Malays, 1,024 Klings and other Natives of India. 57 long-sentence prisoners were transferred to Singapore, 91 prisoners received remission of sentence, 2 escaped and were recaptured, and 1 prisoner was sent to the lunatic asylum. The Supreme Court committed 59 prisoners; the magistrate, Prince of Wales Island, 1,049; the magistrate, Province Wellesley, 973; the marine magistrate, 30; the military, 65; the Court of Quarter Sessions, 1; and the navy, 1. 1,492 prisoners received sentences of less than three months' imprisonment; 401, of three and under six months; 226, of six months and under a year; 38, of a year and under five years: and 24, of five years and upwards. No prisoner was sentenced to death. 19 prisoners were under fifteen years of age; 125, between fifteen and twenty; 1,127, between twenty and thirty; 644, between thirty and forty; 187, between forty and fifty; and 79 above fifty. 303 prisoners were able to read and write; 1,878 could neither read nor write. One prisoner received corporal punishment with the rattan, on the buttocks, of thirty stripes; 2 prisoners, of twenty-four stripes; 59, of twelve stripes; 4, of ten stripes 15, of nine stripes; 3, of eight stripes; 120, of six stripes; and 24, of four stripes; average number of stripes, 7·88.

44. The classes which furnished the larger numbers of prisoners were as follow:—Boatmen, 50; petty shopkeepers, 43; carpenters, 49; coolies, 404; estate coolies, 717; clerks, 19; cart drivers, 25; cooks, 16; domestic servants, 16; fish sellers, 37; goldsmiths, 17; grass cutters, 18; gardeners, 48; hawkers, 129;

hackney carriage drivers, 20; lascars, 84; paddy planters, 67; police non-commissioned officers and constables, 30; syces, 32; soldiers, 68 (62 of the 74th Regiment, and 6 of the Royal Artillery); mercantile marine, 23; woodcutters, 21; and persons of no occupation, 134.

45. The classes of crimes for which the greater number of persons were punished were as follow:—Affray, 38; assault and criminal force, 81; aiding and abetting theft, 17; breach of agreement, 671; breach of revenue laws, 130; breach of municipal laws, 16; breach of merchant shipping acts, 34; criminal force, 21; criminal misappropriation, 14; criminal breach of trust, 25; criminal trespass, 19; cheating, 25; drunkenness and disorderly conduct, 28; failing to find sureties, 76; gambling, 102; gang robbery, 16; hurt, 15; mischief, 11; offences against military discipline, 65; receiving stolen property, 72; theft, 499; vagrancy and loitering, 18. The receipts of the prison from the labour of prisoners amounted to $677; the reimbursements on account of subsistence of military prisoners to $394; and miscellaneous receipts to $11; altogether the receipts amounted to $1,082 34, which, deducted from the sum of $17,334 44, the whole cost of the establishment and upkeep, leaves the actual expenditure of the gaol $16,252 10.

46. In the civil prison there were admitted 278 prisoners; the average daily number having been 26·51, and the greatest number at any time, 55. Of these, 18 males and 3 females were imprisoned for debt; 98 males and 6 females underwent simple imprisonment; 85 males and 2 females were committed to await trial; and 65 males and 1 female were committed on remand. Two of these prisoners died.

Land.

47. The boundaries of the Settlement of Penang have, since its foundation in 1786, undergone considerable alterations, and extensive additions to its area have been made. The original concession, that of the Island itself, containing 68,400 acres, was made and possession of it taken on the 11th August 1786, but the treaty containing the stipulations under which it was conceded was not concluded with the Raja of Kedah until 1st May 1791. The treaty fixed the compensation to be made to the Raja at $6,000 per annum.

48. In 1802 this treaty was annulled by a fresh treaty* with the Raja of Kedah, conceding, on payment of an increased compensation, amounting to $10,000 per annum, the tract of country on the coast opposite to Penang, between Kwala Krian and the river side of Kwala Muda, measuring inland, from the sea, 60 orlongs, and containing about 47,000 acres, and now known as Province Wellesley.

* This treaty was confirmed by the Siamese Government in a treaty made with the King of Siam in 1826.

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49. By an engagement entered into with the Rajah of Ligor (when, at a later period, he was in possession of Kedah), in behalf of the Government of Siam, a re-adjustment of the boundary of Province Wellesley was made, which carried the boundary line further inland, and added about 104,000 acres to the area of the Settlement.

50. On 6th May 1869 a new treaty, in substitution of all former treaties, was made with the Government of Siam, by which the compensation of $10,000 was continued, and a rectification of the boundary of Province Wellesley was provided for. This alteration of boundary caused little or no change in the area of Province Wellesley, but changed the eastern boundary to a line drawn from a point on the north bank of the Muda River, opposite the old boundary pillar, in a direction nearly parallel to the sea, and at a distance varying from about seven to eight miles from it, to the old boundary pillar on the Krian River; thus getting rid, in the north, of the re-entering angle, the point of which approached, opposite George Town, to within four miles of the coast; and, in the south, of the unsurveyed loop boundary line, which ran inland, or eastward, through the primitive jungle, along the ridge of the Barrator Hills.

51. The treaty made with Perak, at Pangkor, on 21st January 1874, added to the Settlement 7,000 acres of land on the south side of the Krian River, which form what is now known as the Trans-Krian District.

52. The whole area of the Settlement is at present, therefore, about 228,000 acres.*

53. There have been issued 9,002 grants of land in fee simple, 3,197 in Prince of Wales Island, and 5,805 in Province Wellesley; 95 leases of 999 years in Prince of Wales Island, and 1,056 in Province Wellesley; and 878 leases of less than 99 years in Prince of Wales Island, and 793 in Province Wellesley; making the total number of grants and leases issued by Government since the foundation of the Settlement 11,824. The registration of mutations of land by private sale has been so imperfectly carried out that it is now impossible to say into how many titles all these grants and leases have been subdivided.

54. The receipts from land during the past year amounted to $36,471, or $36,730 less than in the preceding year. This apparent decrease was due to the receipts from land sales in 1876 having included the payments for some unusually large grants, the issue of which had been outstanding for many years, as mentioned in last year's report, and also a large number of back rents, collected in that year. Of these receipts $17,486 were collected in Prince of Wales Island, $18,681 in Province Wellesley, and $304 in Trans-Krian.

55. The falling off of $2,907 in the receipts from timber is

* The territory at the Dindings, acquired under the Pankor treaty, was made a dependency of this Settlement, but has since been placed under the administration of the Resident of Perak.

accounted for by the transfer to the Perak Government of the duty of collecting the timber revenue at the Dindings.

56. There were issued in George Town, Prince of Wales Island, 6 grants, in fee simple, for 34,458 square feet; and in the country 6 leases for 999 years for 34 acres; in Province Wellesley 11 grants, in fee simple, for 250 acres; and 240 leases for 999 years for 1,263 acres. In Penang 93 "permits" were issued for the clearing and occupying of 481 acres; in Province Wellesley, 86 "permits" for 928 acres; and in Trans-Krian, 99 "permits" for 431 acres.

57. The extent of land held under "permits" issued during the Indian administration of the Colony at the time of the transfer was very considerable, having been in Penang alone 7,032 acres, or about one-tenth of the whole area of the Island. From time to time a few of these "permits" have been exchanged for grants, and some have been abandoned; but from the remainder no revenue has been received. 1,165 "permits" for 7,922 acres have since the transfer been issued in Prince of Wales' Island and Province Wellesley, which have not yet been exchanged for leases.

58. The arrears of revenue from the above sources on 31st December 1877 are estimated as follows:—

	$
On grants and leases, - - - -	59,726
On "permits" issued previous to the transfer, -	55,184
„ since the transfer, - - -	6,130
Total - -	121,040

59. There is no record in the Land Office of the "permits" issued in Province Wellesley previous to the transfer. It is calculated that six additional surveyors would enable the survey of the lands held under these old grants, leases, and permits to be completed in about three years; and it is estimated that, were this survey undertaken, at least $12,136 would be received from survey fees; $44,862 as premiums on leases, and $20,000 on account of "permits." A permanent increase of the annual quit rent revenue, which, exclusive of arrears, is at present about $12,000, would also result from it. The quit rent collections in 1857 amounted to $11,452 or Rs. 25,198.

Ecclesiastical.

60. The Colonial Chaplain resigned on the 10th July, and the vacant appointment was not filled up at the close of the year; but the services of the Church of England were conducted by the Colonial Chaplain of Malacca as Acting Chaplain of the Settlement. The Bishop, at his visitation in April, ordained the native Tamil catechist, as Deacon, to minister to the spiritual wants of the Tamil members of the Church of England.

61. The total number of members of the Church of England in the Settlement was about 250; the average number that attended

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morning service was 106, the average number at evening service 96, and the greatest number that attended the two services together on any one day 278. The average number of military, officers and soldiers and their families, who attended was 36. The military at Fort Cornwallis attend the Church; for the rest of the military the Chaplain holds a service in the early morning at the infantry lines.

Charitable Institutions.

62. The orphanage at the Convent of Saint Maur is in a very dilapidated state, and does not afford sufficient accommodation for the orphans, who are consequently overcrowded in their dormitories. To assist the Lady Superior to construct new premises for the orphans Government voted a special grant of $2,500 in the budget for 1878. It is estimated that new premises will cost about $10,000; towards which funds to the amount of $4,000, exclusive of the Government grant, have been raised.

63. The number of orphans maintained at the institution was 105; and the expenditure on account of their maintenance and supervision was $6,200, or an excess over income of $1,500. Application has had to be made to the Society of the Holy Infancy, in France, to make good this deficit.

64. The income of this institution was $4,700, and was derived as follows:—From the produce or rent of a garden, $300; rent of a house on the convent property, $600; profits of a shop, and from the needlework of the orphans, $1,600 subscription from the Society of the Holy Infancy, $1,200; Government allowance $1,000.

Post Office.

65. The revenue of this Department, owing to the Settlement having been brought into the general postal union, decreased by $2,699; or from $21,226 in 1876 to $18,527 in the past year. This decrease is apparent only under the head of stamps. Under the head of collections there was an increase of $135, occasioned by the additional charge authorised, under Article 3 of the Treaty of Berne, on unpaid letters, from 400 to 600 of which are received from Bombay by every mail. The charge on these unpaid letters is double the postage, plus a fine of 6 cents., on account of their coming from a distance of more than 300 geographical miles, as provided in the article of the treaty, above mentioned.

66. Since the rate at which money orders have been issued has been made to follow the rate of exchange, the money order business has fallen off. In 1875 money orders to the value of $6,425 were sent to the United Kingdom; whereas in the years 1876 and 1877 the values of such orders were only $3,749 and $3,186 respectively. The values of the orders received from the United Kingdom were trifling and also decreased. The advices of these orders having to pass through the post office at Singapore causes a delay of a week or ten days in the orders being cashed after receipt in this Settlement; this was found so great an inconvenience to the public that they ceased to avail themselves of the

money order system for remittances from England. The local money order business fell off in consequence of the facilities afforded by the banks for transmitting small sums by means of drafts.

67. The number of letters received in the Settlement increased by 19,328, and the number of newspapers by 1,830; and the numbers of letters and books despatched from the Settlement by 15,873 and 80 respectively. The numbers of parcels and books received decreased by 40 and 100 respectively; and the numbers of newspapers and parcels by 4,553 and 378. The total increase in the number of letters, newspapers, parcels, and books received and despatched was 31,040.

68. The postal business with Province Wellesley decreased; but this was due to causes not likely to interfere with the future development of the postal communications with that Dependency.

69. The Postmaster, who was the acting chief clerk in another government office, had much of his time taken up with other than postal duties. He received, however, only $20 per mensem in remuneration for his services as Postmaster. There was no increase under the head of salaries; and only an increase of $76 in the other expenditure of the Department.

70. Regular postal communication has now been established with Achin, Deli, Sirdang, and Langkat, in Sumatra; and with the native state of Perak, in the Malay Peninsula. The withdrawal of the English troops from Perak decreased the correspondence with that State, and now that its supply of postage stamps is obtained direct from Singapore, and not, as formerly, from Penang, its contribution towards the postal collections of this Settlement is lessened. The Chinese post office did not function very satisfactorily; but hopes are entertained of an improved state of things in connexion with its future operations.

Medical.

71. The Settlement was visited by two epidemics, cholera and small-pox. The former, due, no doubt, to the great drought throughout the Settlement, and the consequent deficiency of wholesome drinking water in some parts of it, attacked the prisoners in the goal at a time when their number was unusually great; and the latter, which was at its height in the hot and dry months, January, February, March, and April, was of a very virulent type.

72. There is reason to believe that the small-pox was introduced into the Settlement by the steam ship "Bintang," from which a person suffering from the disease in an aggravated form was surreptitiously landed in the Island. This diseased native went to reside in Chow Rusta, in George Town, whence the Colonial Surgeon states he was able to trace the dissemination of the disease. The captain of the "Bintang" was prosecuted and punished.

73. Forty-one patients were treated in the Small-pox Hospital at the old government brick field, out of which 17 died; but many of these patients were in a very advanced stage of the disease,

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and in a state of great want and neglect when picked up in the streets and brought to the hospital by the police.

74. A quarantine station was established at Pulo Jerajah, affording sufficient accommodation for 250 natives and 8 or 10 Europeans, as well as for an apothecary and a guard of police. 268 pilgrims, from the steam ship "Straithairly," were detained there under observation, and 2 passengers from that vessel were at the same time treated there for small-pox.

75. The General Hospital at Datu Kramat was given over to the hospital for the new gaol; and, pending the conversion of the old gaol at Chow Rusta into the future General Hospital, Woodlands, a private residence at Datu Kramat was hired for the accommodation of the General Hospital patients; and they were removed to it on the 24th July.

76. One hundred and thirty-eight European patients, of whom 42 paid the higher rate of $2 per diem, were admitted into the General Hospital, and six remained over from the previous year; out of the number treated 10 died of different diseases. Seventeen patients were admitted under the regulations of the Board of Trade, from whom, in consequence, a payment of only 75 cents per diem was received. The average daily number of patients was 7·25, or about 2 per cent. more than in 1876. The revenue collected from these patients was $2,167 55.

77. Of the native patients, 25 remained over at the end of 1876, and 549 were admitted; the average daily number treated was 22·31, the revenue collected from them $768, and the percentage of deaths 7·1. The increase in the number of these patients was 93, and in the revenue derived from them $283. 178 of these patients were police cases, 24 prisoners, 13 lunatics, 2 destitute native seamen, 14 Government peons, 196 police constables, 122 coolies, servants, &c. The number of deaths was 41, and the most fatal disease, which accounted for 8 deaths, was beri beri. The patients who succumbed to this disease came from Acheen, and all entered the hospital in a very debilitated and hopeless state.

78. In consequence of the outbreak of cholera in the gaol, the Lock Hospital patients, 111 in number, who were accommodated in a building contiguous to it, had to be discharged from hospital, for fear of that disease breaking out among them, and there being no other accommodation ready to receive patients of this class, no further admissions of them to hospital were made until November, by which time sufficient accommodation was provided for the cases most urgently requiring treatment. Fifty-four lock patients remained over from 1876, and 321 were admitted between the 1st January and the 3rd June, when, as mentioned above, all those in hospital were discharged. Between the end of November and the end of the year 105 were admitted into the new hospital, formerly the gaol at Chow Rusta, of whom 96 remained in hospital on 31st December.

79. An average of about 860 persons, registered monthly under

the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, gave occasion for 4,901 medical examinations, which disclosed 426 cases in need of medical treatment. The per-centage of sickness was 8·69, as against 5·28 in the preceding year. The Colonial Surgeon reports very favourably of the benefits conferred by the operation of the Ordinance.

80. At the Pauper Hospital a new ward for 50 patients was built, but, owing in a great measure to the many sick Chinese paupers who came to this Settlement from Achin, and from the other Dutch Settlements on the neighbouring coast of Sumatra, the accommodation at this hospital was insufficient, and the wards were consequently overcrowded. There was a steady increase in the demand for admission during the latter half of the year. In this hospital there remained over from 1876 169 patients, and in December this number increased to 286. The average daily number of patients was 201·5, and the per-centage of deaths 20·71, as against 26·78 in the year previous. As usual, the high death rate is attributable to the many persons who were picked up in a dying state by the police, and sent to hospital. Nine hundred and eighty-five patients were admitted, 553 discharged, 89 absconded, and 239 died. The numbers of patients from the Dutch Settlements in Sumatra admitted between the 10th September, when a separate account of them was commenced to be taken, and the end of the year, were as follows:—From Achin, 33; Deli, 15; Sirdang, 3; Langkat, 4; or a total of 55. The Government of the Netherlands has, however, been communicated with in regard to this immigration of their paupers, and they have undertaken to adopt measures to prevent this Government being burdened with them in future.

81. Twenty-three lepers were admitted into the asylum at Pulau Jerajah; making, with the 41 remaining from the previous year, a total of 64 treated, of whom 16 died.

82. Cholera declared itself in the Gaol Hospital on the 28th May, and between that date and 2nd June, less than six days, 19 prisoners died. At the time of the outbreak of this disease there was cholera in the town; but, if the Registrar's figures are to be credited, only 42 deaths from it had occurred. The gaol was at the moment overcrowded, and the probable cause of the outbreak was the admission of an incipient case of the disease into an atmosphere rendered, through overcrowding, suitable for its generation and rapid dissemination, The immediate discharge from gaol of 100 prisoners, and the removal to the new gaol, which was not then sufficiently completed to admit of the transfer to it of more than that number, of 183 criminal prisoners, had the immediate effect of checking the virulence of the disease; and out of 26 of those sent to the new gaol at Datu Kramat only two died. Altogether there were 82 prisoners attacked, of whom 30 died. The treatments adopted for this disease were as follows:—Thirty-three cases, of which 27 were fatal, were treated by hypodermic injections of chloral hydrate; 6, of which 4 were

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fatal, with camphor; and 36, of which 5 were fatal, by inhalation of sulphur fumes. Of this last mode of treatment the Colonial Surgeon speaks most favourably, and he reports regarding it that the moral effect of its use appeared extremely beneficial to the patient, by inspiring confidence and dissipating fear. This treatment was supplemented by half drachm doses of dilute sulphuric acid, and a plentiful supply of iced water to drink. Six hundred and thirty-six patients were treated in this hospital, as against 555 in 1876, and the number of deaths, of which, as already shown, 30 were due to cholera, was 41. There were three cases of small-pox. Out of 717 estate coolies received as prisoners in the gaol, 54 were admitted into hospital immediately, or within a day or two after their arrival, and a further number were admitted within only a short period after their arrival. Many of these prisoners were in a very wretched condition, and were physically incapable of work, being debilitated and anæmic, and a considerable expenditure of nourishment and medical comforts was found necessary for their restoration to health and strength.

83. The hospital for the new prison is that which was formerly the General Civil Hospital of the Settlement, and is encircled by the continuation of the main wall of the gaol.

84. The number of persons vaccinated in Prince of Wales' Island was only 537, being 556 fewer than in the previous year. This decrease is attributed to a notion entertained by the native population that the operation of vaccination is dangerous during the prevalence of small-pox. The successful operations were 72·81 per cent. of the whole number vaccinated; an improvement in this respect on former years. The average cost of each successful operation was $1·57. Twenty persons were punished for non-compliance with the Vaccination Ordinance.

85. In Province Wellesley the number of deaths from cholera, which made its appearance there in April, was, as registered, 278, and the number, as registered, from small-pox, which declared itself earlier in the year, was 142.

86. In Butterworth Hospital there were treated 406 patients, of whom 402, or 115 more than in 1876, were admitted during the year. This gives a daily average of 38·83, which is more than the hospital is capable of properly accommodating. The number of deaths was 83, or nearly 20 per cent. of the number treated.

87. In Birtam Hospital 12 patients remained over from 1876; 258 were admitted, 189 discharged, and 54, or exactly 20 per cent. of those treated, died; none absconded. The average daily number of sick, which fluctuated between 8 and 49, was 20·23. Of the patients 250 were estate coolies from the Malakoff and Birtam estates.

88. At Bukit Minyak Hospital there remained over 43 patients; 517 were admitted, 313 discharged, 103 absconded, and 110, or 19·8 per cent. of those treated, died. The average daily number

of patients was 33·64. The greatest number of these patients were coolies from the Alma, Victoria, and Krian estates. With reference to these estates, and to their comparative sanitary condition, the medical officer in charge of this hospital is at a loss to account for the mortality of patients from Victoria estate having been so much less than that among those from "Caledonia," the adjoining estate, pneumonia being almost peculiar to Alma estate, and for the coolies on Krian estate being the greatest sufferers from syphilis and its allied diseases. The large number of patients that absconded was due to some persons (crimps) leaguing with one of the hospital servants for the purpose of inducing them to desert and take service on the newly opened tobacco plantations in the Dutch possessions in Sumatra. This hospital had to receive the overflow of patients from the hospital at Sungei Bakup.

89. Out of 569 patients treated in Sungei Bakup Hospital, 523, of whom 29 were females, were admitted during the year; 43 absconded, 347 were discharged, and 129, or 22·6 per cent., died; this hospital has accommodation for only 36 patients, which is very inadequate; and it was found necessary, in order to prevent overcrowding, to send its surplus patients to Bukit Minyak. It is proposed to build in 1878 an additional ward, to accommodate from 40 to 50 patients. The average daily number of patients, of whom 528 were estate coolies, was 42·02.

90. The most prevalent diseases, and those from which the greatest number of deaths occurred, were dysentery and diarrhœa. Of the total number (1,815) of persons treated in the four hospitals in Province Wellesley, 384 suffered from diarrhœa and 260 from dysentery, and of these two diseases 254 died.

91. Vaccination in Province Wellesley was neither vigorously nor successfully practised; only 161 persons were vaccinated, out of which number the operation was perfectly successful in only 50 cases, and moderately successful in 26 cases, in 63 cases it failed, and in 22 cases the patients were not seen after vaccination.

92. The whole cost of the hospitals in Prince of Wales' Island and Province Wellesley was as follows:—

	$	cts.
General Hospital - - - -	5,584	13
Lock Hospital - - - -	2,737	60
Pauper Hospital - - - -	9,144	07
Leper Hospital - - - -	3,001	93
Gaol Hospital - - - -	1,475	18
Butterworth Hospital - - -	3,543	44
Birtam Hospital - - - -	2,335	95
Bukit Minyak Hospital - - -	3,094	34
Sungei Bakup Hospital - - -	3,682	61
Total - - -	34,599	25

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93. The receipts from paying patients were :—

At the General Hospital :—

	$	cts.	$	cts.
From Europeans - -	2,167	55		
„ natives - -	768	68		
			2,936	23
At Butterworth Hospital - - -			1,041	14
„ Birtam Hospital - - -			338	68
„ Bukit Minyak Hospital - -			989	83
„ Sungei Bakup Hospital - -			788	68
Total - - -			6,094	56

94. The average daily cost of a patient in each of the hospitals, including the cost of the medical establishment (except the salary and transport allowance of the senior medical officer of the Settlement), attendants, and cooks, diets, medical comforts, contingent expenses, clothing for patients, transport allowance to medical officers, and upkeep of furniture was as follows:—

	Cts.*
General Hospital, Europeans included - -	51½
Lock Hospital - - - - -	22¼
Gaol Hospital, exclusive of attendants, cooks, diets, and clothing, all of which were found by the gaol - - - - -	16
Pauper Hospital - - - -	12½
Leper Hospital - - - - -	17¼
Butterworth Hospital - - - -	24
Birtam Hospital - - - -	31¾
Bukit Minyak Hospital - - - -	25½
Sungei Bakup Hospital - - - -	25½

95. The above does not include the cost of medicines and surgical instruments, which are furnished from the medical department stores at Singapore, and the cost of which is consequently unknown in this Settlement.

96. The total cost, exclusive of medicines and surgical instruments, of the four hospitals in Province Wellesley which were established principally for the use of estate coolies was $12,657 34, for a daily average of 134·72 patients, or a total of 47,053 patients dieted during the year, thus making the average cost of each patient throughout these four hospitals 26·9 cents. per diem.

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* The Europeans and the natives accounts not being kept separate, the daily cost of each of those classes of patients cannot be given separately; the daily cost of a European of course greatly exceeds that of a native.

97. The charges for patients in the different hospitals were as follows:—

General Hospital, Prince of Wales' Island:

	$ cts.	
Europeans, higher, or mercantile marine officer class	2 0	per diem.
Europeans, lower, or seamen class	1 0	„
European patients under Board of Trade regulations	0 75	„
Police natives	0 6	„
Natives without charge for extras	0 14	„

	$ cts.	
Butterworth Hospital, natives	0 6	In addition to the actual contract cost of extras.
Birtam* Hospital, natives	0 8	
Bukit Minyak* Hospital, natives	0 8	
Sungei Bakup* Hospital, natives	0 8	

Education.

98. Although the number of pupils at the Free School increased, the standard of education at that institution was not maintained. This is attributable to the resignation of two of the trained English masters, and the impossibility before the end of the year of replacing them. Efforts made to secure the services of masters in England and Scotland failed, owing to the great demand for teachers in those countries having caused the rates of remuneration requisite to induce them to leave home for service in this Colony to rise above the means at the disposal of the school committee. Generally, too, education languished throughout the Settlement in consequence of there being no one to maintain its interests and administer to its requirements.

99. A fourth wing as an additional class-room, capable of accommodating 120 pupils, was added to the Free School at a cost of $2,999. This sum was presented for the purpose by Mr. Hong Lim, of Singapore. The number of pupils on the register of this school was 604, an increase of 65 over that of the preceding year. The average attendance was 471, also an increase of 65. The number of pupils who presented themselves for examination by the Government Inspector was 286, as against 315 in the previous year; and the number of passes obtained was only 704, or less than in the year 1876 by 106. The grant obtained for "results" was $1,867, or a decrease of $150. Donations and subscriptions amounted to $1,159; pupils' payments to $2,608; the fixed grant received from Government to $1,200; interest on capital to $1,715. The total current income was $8,761, and the current expenditure $5,885. The invested capital of the institution at the end of December amounted to $25,360, yielding an income of $2,213 per annum.

* The contract cost of rations is higher at these hospitals on account of their distance from town.

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100. At the Christian Brothers' School, which receives aid from Government, there were 184 boys on the register, of whom there was an average attendance of 132; 100 boys were examined by the Government Inspector, and 215 passes were obtained by them. The income of the school, which was made up of $564, the fixed grant from Government, $567, the Government grant for the results of the examination, $362, school fees, and $50 from a donation, amounted altogether to $1,543, whereas the expenditure incurred was $1,703. This deficit had to be met from the funds at the disposal of the Roman Catholic Church. The funds of this church had also to bear the loss of the interest on $8,000 advanced from them for the purchase of the land for the school and for defraying the original cost of building the school itself.

Judicial.

101. Until the month of July, when a temporary Judge arrived from England, there was no resident Judge in the Settlement; and, although the Acting Chief Justice held the Criminal and Civil Sessions in February and May, the business of the Court got in arrears, which were not cleared off before the close of the year. A resident Puisne Judge, newly appointed, assumed his duties in September. The old Court of Requests' Establishment, together with the jurisdiction of that Court, was removed from the "summary side" of the Supreme Court on the 1st May, and a Deputy Registrar for the "summary side" was appointed at the commencement of the year. The work done by the Court was about the same as the average of what was performed by it during the two previous years, with the exception of a decrease in that average of 785 in the number of "summary side" cases filed, and of 177 in the number of "summary side" cases tried, in which the sums claimed were above $50. Of the cases filed, those in 1875 and 1876 were for sums of from $1 to $500, whereas those in 1877 were for sums of from $50 to $500.

102. The Registrar attributes the great decrease in the number of "summary cases" tried to the absence during so great a portion of the year of a resident Judge, and the consequent irregular intervals at which the Court was held.

103. The Senior Magistrate of Prince of Wales' Island, who is, now, also Protector of Immigrants, went on leave in July; and for about two months his magisterial duties were performed by the junior magistrate with the assistance of the honorary magistrates.

104. In this court the "day cases" increased by 376, and the "summons cases" by 116; total increase 714. The number of persons apprehended and brought before the magistrates was 11,940, or an increase of 977. The number of cases sent up to the assizes was greater by 10, and the numbers of persons included in them was 19 more than in 1876; but the former was only greater by one, and the number of persons included, less by 12 than in 1875. The number of persons committed for non-payment of fine increased by 266, and that of persons peremp-

torily imprisoned by 465. The value of the fines inflicted increased by $498, and that of the fees by $688; together making an increase of revenue of $1,186; the total collections having been $17,528.

105. The Court of Requests was revived in Prince of Wales' Island on 1st May, when the original establishment, which had been transferred to the "summary side" of the Supreme Court, was relegated to its original office with its former functions and jurisdiction. An allowance of $360 per annum was at the same time granted to the junior magistrate in consequence of his being appointed a commissioner of this court.

106. The number of suits for sums of from $1 to $10 was 571; of from $10 to $20, 371; of from $20 to $30, 241; and of from $30 to $50, 337; or a total of 1,520 suits, in which the debts and damages claimed amounted to $29,336. Judgment was given for plaintiff in 1,074, and against in 62 suits. There were also 22 interpleader suits, and 22 judgment summons cases. In 1873, before this jurisdiction was removed to the Supreme Court, the total number of suits was greater, having been 1,875; but the amount of debts and damages claimed was about the same; viz., $30,287.

Indian Immigration.

107. The Indian Immigration Ordinance came into operation in this Settlement alone on 1st December 1876; but the Act of the Indian Government regulating emigration from India did not come into force until the 1st January 1878. The immigrants arriving during the year not coming under the regulations provided in that Act rendered the Colonial Ordinance to a certain extent inoperative and some of its provisions difficult to enforce.

108. Two thousand one hundred and thirty-six male and 140 female immigrants, with 7 children, arrived between June, the time of the earliest arrival, and the end of the year.

109. The death rate among Indian coolies was high, and especially so among those treated in hospital. This is due, to some extent, to the following causes: many coolies emigrate to this Settlement because they are unable to find work, owing to either sickness or some other cause, and are consequently unable to obtain a livelihood in their own country. Such immigrants on arrival are out of condition, and when put to work break down; and the same result frequently takes place when men who have been accustomed to other descriptions of labour are put to hoeing in the cane fields, the usual labour for which they have been engaged. The majority of newly arrived coolies are entirely ignorant, extremely careless in regard to health, of dirty habits, and opposed to all sanitary arrangements. Many of them will drink the worst description of spirits, and will even sell the rice which is absolutely necessary for their sustenance, and thus starve themselves to obtain it; others will eat any vegetable trash they can gather on the estates; while others again will steal and devour, with apparent satisfaction, the rotten fish which on

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some estates is used as manure for the land. Many labourers, especially those who have been unaccustomed to the use of the hoe, receive slight injuries from that tool, and others from accidents in the field or sugar house. The parts injured, they then—some from ignorance, but others intentionally—bandage up tightly, and by this means produce ulcers of a very bad and obstinate description. Some coolies again in order to shirk their work purposely, even when under treatment in hospital, irritate their sores to prevent them from healing.

110. As a rule, the old cooly, after some years of residence in the Colony, becomes a more intelligent and civilised being than he was before he left his native village in India; and not a few coolies have by steady conduct, industry, and economy become persons of some consideration and of considerable means in the Settlement; there is, therefore, this much at all events to be said in favour of Indian immigration.

111. The Protector went on sick leave to England about the middle of the year; but the Acting Protector has reported that the provisions of the Ordinance have been fairly carried out by the employers of labour; and that the complaints that have been received from the coolies have, as a rule, been of a trivial nature.

112. A twelve months' experience of the combined working of the Indian Act and the Straits Settlements Ordinance will, at the end of the current year, have been gained, and the benefits likely to be derived from this legislation, as well as any defects in it, will then be more apparent, and the Protector will be in a position to furnish more useful information regarding the general question of this class of immigration.

113. Employers of labour, with some exceptions, appear to consider that the restrictions under which they are placed by Government, in its solicitous endeavours to afford reasonable protection to the ignorant labourer, are excessive, and urge the established maxim of agricultural economy, "that it is to their "own interest to take care of their coolies," as well as that Government is not acquainted with, or does not sufficiently consider, the protection that the employer requires against the idleness and breaches of contract of the labourer, and his disinclination to conform in sickness, and in sanitary, and other matters, with the regulations laid down by Government. The balance of conflicting interests between the employer and the employed is, no doubt, a difficult one to perfectly adjust; but it should be remembered that it is the employer who first seeks out, through his agents, the labourer; who makes overtures to him, holding out bright and often exaggerated prospects; and who holds in his hands the strings of the purse, on the binding or loosing of which are entirely dependent the comfort and convenience of the labourer. A European proprietor of an estate in the tropics is, as a rule, unlike the proprietor of an estate in England, in this respect, that he does not look upon his estate as a life investment for his money; but he, as well as his European employé, looks to making large profits with as little outlay and

delay as possible, with the view of "going home" to live on the capital he shall have made out of the estate, the money for the purchase or opening of which has generally been borrowed. Under such circumstances, it is of the greatest importance to them to keep down all not absolutely necessary or obligatory expenditure, and the cooly, whose wages are one of the principal items of it, is hardly likely to receive more than his agreement obliges; and experience has proved that one necessity of special protection in his behalf is to ensure his getting even that.

Chinese Immigration and Emigration.

114. A new establishment was created by Ordinances 2 and 3 of 1877 for the protection of Chinese; and a Protector and his staff (consisting of a boarding officer and a clerk) were appointed for carrying out its provisions. The effect of this measure has been to put an end to the crimping associations that had previously existed for the crimping of Chinese, or their engagement under false pretences, to labour in the Dutch Settlements in Sumatra; as well as to close all unauthorised depôts for their detention while awaiting shipment. These depôts were dark, secluded, unwholesome dens, in which the immigrants were kept entirely at the mercy of the crimp or cooly-broker.

115. Immigrant Chinese arriving now in the Settlement have their engagements explained to them, and receive their advances in presence of the Protector, who gives them every assistance and information they require. Chinese emigrating from the Settlement receive like protection, assistance, and information.

116. The respectable portion of the Chinese community have expressed much satisfaction at the measures adopted by Government to afford protection and assistance to their poor and simple countrymen. These measures, which appear to be also greatly appreciated by the coolies themselves, who have already manifested great confidence in the Protector, and have in several instances in a marked manner adopted his advice in preference to that of their headmen, will, doubtless, eventually have the effect of inducing the Chinese who come to reside in this Colony to look to the Government, instead of to their Congsees or secret societies, for assistance and protection, and will, while the influence of the latter is being weakened, cause them to hold the former in estimation and respect.

117. Eight respectable depôts have been established under the supervision of the Protector as lodging houses for Chinese immigrants, as well as for Chinese about to emigrate, and who are awaiting means of transport, and 20 respectable Chinese have been licensed as recruiters of coolies.

118. The registration of Chinese immigrants and emigrants commenced on the 1st October, and between that and the end of the year the arrival of 6,076 immigrants and the departure of 5,107 emigrants were registered. Of the immigrants, 2,930 were Tew Chews, 1,791 Foo Chews, 297 Kyan Chews, 268 Cantonese, 377 Hokiens, and 24 Hylams. During the same period

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280 Chinese passed through the port on their way to Acheen, and 331 to Junk Ceylon.

119. Of those that emigrated, 2,880 were Tew Chews, 1,635 Foo Chews, 257 Kyan Chews, 168 Cantonese, 69 Hylams, 97 Hokiens, and one was a K'See. 3,688 went to Sumatra, viz., 2,342 to Deli, 919 to Langkat, 274 to Sirdang, 138 to Edie, and 15 to Achin, 18 went to the Native States of the Peninsula, and 1,401 entered into engagements in Penang aud Province Wellesley.

Shipping.

120. Notwithstanding the great depression of trade throughout the year, the revenue of this branch of the Harbour Department fell off only to the extent of $195, it having been $13,682 as against $13,877 in the preceding year. The depression of trade, however, increased the revenue derived from the registration of vessels by $278; as a greater number of vessels changed hands in consequence of many owners of small vessels having failed.

121. Only one new vessel, a schooner, was registered, and the revenue derived from "surveying and measuring fees" fell off accordingly by $70. This was due to the great dulness of the local trade between this port and the native States of Sumatra, and of the Malay Peninsula.

122. For the same reason shipping fees fell off, but to the extent, notwithstanding, of only $34.

123. The fees for surveying passenger ships remained almost the same, but few of the large passenger steamers were surveyed at this port, their survey being generally made at Singapore, Penang being in the case of most of these vessels only an intermediate port.

124. Eight pilots are licensed for this port, and as no change took place among them no revenue accrued under the head of pilot licenses.

125. From beaching vessels on the Government land in front of the harbour office the sum of $102, an increase of $37, was received. This revenue might be considerably increased, were the same rates charged for beaching as at Singapore, viz., $5 per day for each vessel, and were rates also charged for beaching small crafts and boats. The charge here, at present, is only $1 for large vessels, and 50 cents for vessels of under 50 tons.

126. The registration of cargo boats produced an increase of $19, but the receipts from the registration of passenger boats fell off by $47, and from the registration of fishing stakes by $345.

127. There was a slight increase in the sale of the import and export lists.

128. Some severe penalties, awarded against persons obstructing the channels leading to the port with floating nets, which are very dangerous to the screws of steamers, increased the fines and fees of the Marine Magistrate's Court by $100.

129. The vessels that entered the port showed a decrease of 27 in number, and of 1,268 in tonnage, and those that cleared out-

wards of 34 in number, and 2,302 in tonnage; there was, however, an increase of 10 in the number, and of 5,204 in the tonnage of steamers that entered and of 14 in the number, and of 8,068 in the tonnage of those that cleared the port. The decrease "inwards" was 16 schooners, 16 brigs, 4 barques, and 1 ship, and the decrease "outwards" 17 schooners, 18 brigs, 12 barques, and 1 ship.

130. At the Hill Signal Station an iron flag staff, obtained from England, was erected in place of the old wooden one, at a cost of about $2,000.

131. Communication, by means of commodious steam launches, was regularly established between George Town and the following places:—

Jalan Bahru, at the mouth of the Pry River, Province Wellesley, every hour.

Butterworth, at the mouth of the Pry River, Province Wellesley, every hour.

Bukit Tambun, at the mouth of the Pry River, Province Wellesley, twice daily.

Nebong Tubal, at the mouth of the Pry River, Province Wellesley, twice daily.

Kwala Muda, at the mouth of the Pry River, Province Wellesley, once daily.

Larut, at the mouth of the Pry River, Perak, every alternate day.

Three launches also ran to Kedah at uncertain times.

132. A wharf, known as "Bowers' Wharf," 708 feet long and 32 feet wide, with a "T" head, 133 feet in length, and 30 feet in width, in continuation of China Street Ghaut, undertaken by a company, was completed under the energetic management of Captain Bowers of the Burmah Steam Ship Company, who was the original promoter of the undertaking. This wharf will give the accommodation at low water, spring tides, to vessels drawing 18 feet of water.

Imports and Exports.

133. Notwithstanding the dull state of trade, the values of the imports and exports exhibit an increase; the former of $1,793,043, and the latter of $4,234,449, or a total of $6,027,492 over those of the previous year, and of $3,094,607 over those of the year 1875. The value of the imports was $17,656,916, and of the exports $20,821,970, making together 38,478,886.*

134. The imports from the United Kingdom increased in value by $1,112,941, while the exports to it decreased by $360,879. The imports from British India and Hongkong increased by $190,505 and $289,480 respectively, but those from British Burmah decreased by $731,798. The exports to those places increased by $308,209, $139,124, and $39,847, respectively.

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* In 1857, they amounted to between $15,000,000 and $16,000,000.

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135. The increase and decrease in the local trade of the Settlement is here represented:—

—	Imports Increase.	Imports Decrease.	Export Increase.	Export Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore and Malacca -	—	465,535	839,131	—
Malayan Peninsula -	—	29,645	—	139,419
Sumatra - -	737,472	—	149,266	—
Siam - - -	—	42,888	—	429,325
Total - -	737,472	538,06	988,397	568,744
	588,068		568,744	
Increase - -	149,404		419,653	

Total increase, imports and exports, $569,057.

136. The imports from China increased by $494,343. The principal increase in exports took place to the following foreign countries;—

	$
Holland - - -	3,213,097
Java - - -	273,875

The increase in the exports to Holland is due almost entirely to the export of tobacco grown on the recently opened estates in the neighbourhood of Deli, in Sumatra, and imported into this Settlement for shipment to Europe.

137. The articles imported which exhibit the largest augmentations are:—Cotton goods, $350,011; pepper, $505,460; salt provisions, $482,518; tobacco, $748,927; and specie, $240,347; and those exported:—Opium, $135,648; pepper, $450,879; specie, $1,065,324; and tobacco, $3,100,487. A falling off in the import of rice took place to the extent of $681,525, and in the export of it to that of $85,982. The export of cotton goods was less by $272,545.

138. Tin, the principal product of the native States of the Peninsula, fell off in its imports by $25,901, and in its exports by $20,380. Of gutta percha, another native States product, the increase in imports was $13,567, and of exports $58,856.

(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

5th July 1878.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Malacca,
July 31, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Settlement of Malacca for 1877.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD W. SHAW,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Singapore.

No. 18.

MALACCA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year, which amounted to $114,582 82, exceeded that for the previous year by $5,499 32.

The following comparative statement exhibits in detail the increase and decrease of the revenue collected during the year:—

—	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Land revenue	19,838 44	21,276 26	1,437 82	—
Rents exclusive of land	148 0	198 0	50 0	—
Licenses farmed out	68,471 0	69,647 75	1,176 75	—
Stamps	9,427 32	10,027 88	600 56	—
Port and harbour dues	335 34	430 61	95 27	—
Postage	841 25	692 05	—	149 20
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court.	3,108 65	5,010 99	1,902 34	—
Fees of office	290 25	286 75	—	3 50
Reimbursement on account of miscellaneous department.	4,877 24	5,619 65	742 41	—
Sale of Government property	279 22	115 45	—	163 77
Miscellaneous receipts	761 23	249 43	—	511 80
Special receipts	705 56	1,028 0	322 44	—
Total	109,083 50	114,582 82	6,327 59	828 27

The increase under the head "Licenses" farmed out was owing to the opium and spirit, pawnbrokers, and the toddy and baang farms having realised more than for the previous year.

An increase of $600 56 is observable in the receipts for stamp.

The accounts for the two years show the following:—

Description of Stamps.	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Revenue	3,506 97	3,811 18	304 21	—
Judicial	5,920 35	6,216 70	296 35	—

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An increase of $1,902 34 was obtained under fines, forfeitures, and fees of court (*see* Comparative Statement).

Under "Reimbursements" the increase was principally on account of survey fees, &c.

"Miscellaneous" receipts show a decrease of $511 80, but it should be borne in mind that a large sum classed under this head of service in 1876 was merely a refund of salary.

The heading "Special Receipts" represents the collections for the year made under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, of which there was an increase of $3,322 44.

The expenditure was greater than that of the preceding year by $8,219 33.

The following statement exhibits in detail the increase and decrease of the expenditure, as compared with the previous year:—

—	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Salaries	69,124 94	71,151 29	2,026 35	—
Office contingencies	563 49	490 20	—	73 29
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.	7,547 34	7,380 72	—	166 62
Revenue services, exclusive of establishment.	4,119 15	3,806 19	—	312 96
Administration of justice	676 47	547 91	—	128 56
Ecclesiastical	311 49	311 25	—	0 24
Education	7,126 58	7,812 05	685 47	—
Medical	4,512 12	5,117 48	605 36	—
Police	1,233 32	1,383 75	150 43	—
Gaols	3,286 62	3,461 39	174 77	—
Harbour department	612 18	606 85	—	5 33
Lighthouse	1,325 13	1,123 78	—	201 35
Government vessels	114 30	132 37	18 07	—
Conveyance of mails	154 69	127 74	—	26 95
Rent	884 20	1,065 48	181 28	—
Transport	6,212 81	7,120 25	907 44	-
Miscellaneous services	638 68	540 92	—	97 76
Works and buildings	12,317 44	9,701 26	—	2,616 18
Roads, streets, and bridges	16,166 41	17,551 58	1,385 17	—
Military expenditure	564 69	564 69	—	—
Special expenses	3,663 27	9,242 50	5,579 23	—
Land and houses purchased	—	135 0	135 0	—
Total	141,155 32	149,374 65	11,848 57	3,629 24

The increase under "Salaries" is accounted for principally by the payment of the half salary of the Collector of Land Revenue by the Crown Agents.

An increase of expenditure under "Grant for Results" and the grant to the Malacca Girls' School for 1877, $240, chiefly accounts for the difference under education.

Under "Transport" the increase was owing principally to the Land Office. The transport expenses of this department in 1877

was $548 11 more than that of the previous year. There was also an increase in the police and in miscellaneous transports.

The expenditure in 1877 under "Special Expenses" was chiefly on account of certain annuities in respect of lands at Pēngkâlan Batu and Tanah Merah, &c. having been purchased by Government.

A reduction of $2,616 18 is observable under works and buildings and an increase of $1,385 17 under roads and bridges.

The sum of $135, classed as "Land and Houses purchased," was for certain additions and alterations to the new military hospital.

Local Revenue.

The following statement exhibits the revenue and expenditure of the municipality for the years 1876 and 1877:—

—	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
RECEIPTS.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Assessment on houses	9,130 89½	9,100 03	—	30 86½
Assessment on lands	1,428 31	1,451 02½	22 71½	—
Taxes levied on private carriages and horses.	1,300 89	1,214 31	—	86 58
Taxes levied on registered carriages, horses, and carts.	4,805 27½	4,400 05	—	405 22½
Fees for registration of hackney carriages and drivers.	214 15	226 95	12 80	—
Fees for registration of carts	121 20	117 60	—	3 60
Fees for licensing slaughter-houses.	120 0	190 0	70 0	—
Fees for licensing tallow melting	60 0	50 0	—	10 0
Fees for licensing dyeing houses	20 0	20 0	—	—
Fees for licensing temporary obstructions.	80 75	104 0	23 25	—
Fees for erecting temporary sheds	17 0	2 50	—	14 50
Rent of booth	49 50	—	—	49 50
Rent of portion of roads for laying building materials on street.	36 50	8 0	—	28 50
Fees on distress warrants	2 75	10 50	7 75	
Sale of old ansana trees	23 0	11 0	—	12 0
Sale of old water casks	3 0	7 0	4 0	—
Rent of new market	147 0	186 0	39 0	—
Rent of tranquera	—	—	—	
Fish market	—	22 50	22 50	—
Total	17,560 22	17,121 46½	202 01½	640 77
				202 01½
Decrease	—	—	—	438 75
Balance in favour of the fund on 31st December 1876.	—	—	—	3,017 08½
Balance in favour of the fund on 31st December 1877.	—	—	—	1,602 74
Decrease	—	—	—	1,414 34½

——	1876.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
DISBURSEMENTS.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Police.				
Contribution to police force -	3,600 0	3,600 0	—	—
Commissioner's Establishment.				
Fixed salaries - - -	2,028 0	2,104 0	76 0	—
Contingent charges - -	779 60	933 70	154 10	—
Conservancy Department.				
Fixed salaries - - -	354 0	468 0	114 0	—
Contingent charges - -	11,980 28	11,430 11	—	550 17
Total - -	18,741 88	18,535 81	344 10	550 17

Land Office.

The expenditure for 1877 amounted to $9,536, being nearly $600 over the estimate. This increase is due entirely to transport expenses, which exceed the estimate by $900, but the items contained under this head include not only transport of the regular staff of the office, but also a portion of that and the personal allowances of both the regular and temporary clerks, which should properly be paid out of the vote for "Collecting Land Revenue, &c."

The estimate for receipts in 1877 was $18,900, and the amount collected $21,276 26, an increase due to the amount realised on uncommuted paddy tenths, viz., $5,048, as against $1,000 estimated. The other sources of revenue, with two exceptions, differ very little from the estimates. These are tenths or tin and fruits, which show a loss of $1,259 and $453 respectively from the amounts estimated.

The former I believe to be due to the low price of tin prevailing during the year, which caused some mines to be abandoned and the number of coolies working in the rest to be reduced; the latter appears to be due to an over-estimate, as slightly more was collected than in the year previous.

The revenue shows a total increase of $1,440 82 over that for 1876, and the arrears outstanding on the 31st December 1877 amounted to $3,411, as follows:—

	$
Tenths on paddy - - -	211
Quit-rents on leases - - -	3,200

Besides an unascertained amount due on commutation deeds.

The tenths on paddy were, as in previous years, mostly collected by the pengulus of the different districts. A large portion of the arrears of quit-rents is due to the lands being abandoned before the leases expire by the lessees (generally Chinese tapioca planters) without the consent of Government, and the greater part may therefore be looked upon as irrecoverable.

Public Works and Survey.

The expenditure of $27,252 52 during 1877 is about $2,000 above the average of the preceding seven years, and about $3,000 below the average of the preceding four years. It appears that during 1870, 1871, and 1872 there was still a great deal of convict labour available.

The total expenditure on civil buildings amounts to $8,023 18, and is about $3,000 below the average of the preceding seven years, but about $7,000 below the average of the preceding four years; this great difference was in consequence of the extensive works to improvements of prisons and the Government House during 1873. The following are the principal works that were carried out during the year under the heads of new works, alterations, and special, viz.:—

Construction of a permanent building for a dressers' quarters attached to the General Hospital.
Construction of a semi-permanent pauper shed.
Re-construction of Tanjong Kling Bungalow (not complete).
New floor to the upper story of the General Hospital.
Construction of a permanent Malay school.
Special repairs to the Malacca Pier.
Special repairs to the Free School.

The expenditure on minor works and alterations was $100 above the average of the preceding seven years and about the same of 1876.

The expenditure on maintenance was during the year $3,548 72, being $750 above the average of the preceding seven years, but only $100 above the expenditure of 1876, the reason of the increase appears to be on account of the public buildings in town being very old, and those in the country, almost all of a temporary construction, require constant and expensive up-keep. In addition to this, there are several buildings brought under the immediate charge of Government which had been before self-maintained, such as the Leper Hospital, burial grounds, Free School, Girls' School, some native Schools, &c., besides these, within the last five years several temporary and permanent buildings have been constructed, which require in some instances expensive up-keep; with all these additions the expenditure may be kept within $3,500 for maintenance.

The total expenditure in 1877 on military works, amounting to $1,603 82, is about $600 above the average of the preceding seven years, and a little less than the expenditure in 1876. The increase began since 1872 when the native troops were removed from this Settlement, and the European troops came in their place. The principal works executed during the year were special repairs to the gun shed and married quarters, and the construction of a dancing and drill platform. The expenditure on minor works is about $100 above the four preceding years, and about the same as in 1876.

The total expenditure under the head of stores is $74 26, being

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$88 below the axerage of the preceding seven years, and about the same as in 1876, in this expenditure is included the purchase of a new crab winch.

The expenditure on roads, streets, and bridges, amounting to $17,551 26, is about $5,000 below the average of the preceding seven years, and about $1,400 above 1876, the increase is chiefly on the maintenance, in consequence of the absence of convict labour, which ceased in 1873; the most important works completed during the year were as follows:—

Construction of eight timber platform bridges, 4 feet span.

Raising Bachang Road.

Clearing and improving drainage of the Malacca River.

Reconstruction of the Batû Berendam Bridge, 80 feet span and

Raising the road at Sungei Putat. In addition to these there was the up-keep of 166 miles of first class roads, and 102 miles of second class, containing 900 bridges, of which three-quarters are temporary, cleaning rivers and canals, providing residence for coolies, and other desultory works which generally came under this head of service.

Survey Branch.

There were 10,936 acres of tapioca lands surveyed during the year, of which 4,422 were applied for, and 6,514 were encroachments made by some of the planters beyond the limits of their leases. The allotment and typographical surveys comprised 654 allotments, aggregating an area of 1,376 square acres, mapped to a scale of 4 chains to an inch.

The average cost of the field work performed during the year is 17½ cents. per acre. The total expenditure of the department was $4,208 22, and the amount of re-imbursement for the year, $5,436.

Report on the Malacca Police Force for 1877.

Strength of the Force.—The strength of the Malacca police force consists of 1 superintendent, 3 inspectors, 2 sub-inspectors, 2 sergeant-majors, 4 sergeants, 29 corporals, and 194 constables.

There are 29 police stations in the Settlement.

Conduct of the Force.—Sergeant-major Dollah was on the 24th October last suspended from duty for extortion. The case against him having been dismissed by the magistrate of police, he was, by order of the Inspector-General of Police, re-instated to his position.

There were no reports made against the inspectors, sub-inspectors, and the other native officers,

Among the constables there were four cases of desertion. One of the constables was on the 1st November sentenced by the magistrate of police to six months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of $25, for extortion. With the exception of these the other crimes among them consisted mostly of absence, asleep, and neglect of duty.

Revenue.—The revenue collected in the Police Department during the past year shows a slight increase over that received in 1876.

Expenditure.—The cost for the maintenance of the force has been almost the same as in 1876.

General.—A riot between the Ghee Hin, Ghee Boo, and Hock Beng Kongsees broke out on the 1st October last at Bukit Brûang, during a Chinese funeral procession. It originated by the eldest son of the deceased, who is a head man of the Ghee Hin, refusing to allow the men of the Hock Beng people (to which Kongsee the other sons belong) to take part in the funeral. It was put down by the police, who were there to keep order.

Two cases of murder were reported during 1877.

Education.

The "English School" system in this Settlement has been going through a crisis, owing in great measure to the protracted illness and subsequent death of Mr. Thomas Smith, the head master, who had been in charge of the Free School for upwards of 12 years. An endeavour, shortly before this event, to introduce school fees as at Singapore and Penang, aggravated the crisis. By the close of the year the numbers had fallen to about half the former average, many of those who had left the Free School having gone to the small Roman Catholic Mission Schools, already much overcrowded, in which no fees were charged.

The Inspector, after holding his annual inspection, drew the attention of Government to the generally unsatisfactory state into which the English boys' schools of the Settlement had fallen; for some years past the results of the inspection have been growing more and more unpromising, and the Committee of the Free School finding itself unable to meet the financial and other difficulties of the situation, and in view of the growing expenditure necessary to meet the increased numbers and the modern requirements, resolved to offer to the Government their school, school buildings, and school funds. This resolution having been submitted to and approved by a public meeting called together in accordance with the original procedure when the School Committee was first created in 1825, was forwarded to Government shortly after the inspection.

It is satisfactory to observe that, although the well-to-do Chinese here are very obstinate in regard to paying fees, and not very generous subscribers to an institution which has done their community such important benefits, they are still anxious that their boys should receive English instruction of some kind. The total number attending school is as large as formerly, and now that attention is being given to the whole subject, it may be hoped that the quality of the instruction will be improved. It seems unlikely that this can be effected in Malacca without Government interference and support to a degree unnecessary in the other Settlements

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In the vernacular (Malay) schools things are going on more satisfactorily. The experiment of employing a Malay "Inche" as visiting teacher of these schools was introduced by the Inspector of Schools last August, and the result has hitherto answered expectations. The numbers have already increased from 643 in 1876 to about 800 in 1877, several fresh schools have been opened, and the Malay visitor, as was expected, proves himself to possess an advantage over the European in his facilities for explaining the objects aimed at by these schools, and the rules under which they are managed.

The difficulty referred to in last year's report with respect to obtaining competent Malay teachers is still experienced, but it may be hoped that the Singapore Training College will shortly diminish it by supplying qualified assistants. At the same time it must be understood there is little interest taken in education even of the simplest vernacular character by the parents in most of our *Kampongs;* and a very large majority of the Malay paddy planters, and even of the poorer Portuguese children in the town, are likely to remain destitute of any education until some general system is introduced on a basis of more or less direct compulsion.

In fact, it begins now to be clear, after more than five years' experience, that however successful one of these Malay schools may be at its first start, it will inevitably fall away in its turn. Bandar Ilir, Pengkâlan Rama, Trangkêra, and Bûkit Chîna have all followed a similar course in this respect. These Malay schools have not originated in the spontaneous desire of the people, and they can only be supported by the personal influence of the Inspector and his visitor. They can have no solid and permanent footing until the system is settled on a more practical basis than this; and if the Government earnestly desires to make education general, some form of school cess must be adopted, as in other Eastern districts.

These considerations sufficiently explain the fact that only 2 per cent. of the Malay children are at present receiving education.

The most satisfactory aspect of education in Malacca at the present time has regard to the girls' schools. Both the Protestant and the Roman Catholic (convent) schools are making solid progress in every respect, which is the more satisfactory that neither of them was opened until some three years ago.

Judicial.

The number of criminal cases sent up to the Supreme Court for trial at the two yearly and two special assizes held at Malacca in the year 1877, was 92. The results were as follows:—

45 convictions, 32 acquittals, 13 nolle prosequi, and 1 postponement. The sentences passed were as follows:—

1 death, 39 rigorous imprisonment, and 5 simple imprisonment. Of the 45 offences for which sentences were so passed, 1 was for culpable homicide, 12 were for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, 1 was for grievous hurt by means of an instrument for

cutting, 14 were for other offences against the person, 13 were for other offences against property, and 4 were for miscellaneous offences. This contrasts most unfavourably with the number of cases in 1876, when only 64 were entered, of which 25 were transferred to Singapore, owing to the very small and limited number of special jurors in Malacca to try them, as they were all capital offences which, by the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, could only be tried by special jurors. The number of cases so sent up being thus reduced to 39, the results were as follows:—19 convictions, 18 acquittals, 1 nolle prosequi, and 1 postponement. There were more cases returned in 1877 than in 1876 by about one half. But, judging from the number of acquittals and nolle prosequi, they would appear to have been cases not sufficiently supported by evidence, and ought not, therefore, to have been sent up to the Supreme Court for trial.

On the plea and summary sides of the Court there were 37 cases tried, in which the debt or damages claimed amounted to $13,112 65. Out of these 37 cases, 34 were judgment for the plaintiff, 1 was judgment for the defendent, and 2 were non-suits. The amount of debt or damages adjudged was $10,977 38. On the equity side there was only 1 case tried in which no specific sum was claimed, as the petition was for a specific performance, and it was decided in favour of the defendant.

On the ecclesiastical side of the court there was an increase in administration and probate cases filed by about one fourth in the former and one half in the latter. In the number of cases tried there was also an increase to the same extent, as compared with the year 1876. The number of administration cases filed in that year was 73, whilst in 1877 it was 103, so with regard to the Probate cases filed in 1876 the number was 9, whilst in 1877 it was 17. The number of administration cases tried in 1876 was 61, whilst in 1877 it was 76. The number of probate cases tried in 1876 was 7, whilst in 1877 it was 16. The value of estates sworn in administration cases in 1876 was $27,872, whilst in 1877 it was $30,462. In probate cases in 1876 the amount was $3,880, whilst in 1877 it was $10,550. Of the administration cases not proceeded with there were 27, and of the probate cases 1.

There were 63 plea and 5 equity side actions and suits commenced in 1877, and about the same number on the plea side, and 6 on the equity side in 1876. Of these cases 15 plea side, and 1 equity side were settled without trial, 24 plea side were judgment for plaintiff and none for defendant, 1 plea side was non-suited, 23 plea side and 3 equity side were in dependence, as compared with the year 1876 when on the plea side 12 were settled without trial, 23 were judgment for plaintiff, 2 were judgment for defendant, 2 were non-suited, and 24 were left in dependence. The number of civil writs issued in 1877 were 145, as against 110 in 1876, and of criminal writs 140, as against 122 in 1876. Of bills of sale, under Ordinance 22 of 1870, 66 were registered, as against 64 in 1876. Only 1 appeal case was sent up, and it was heard and determined. 2 bankruptcy peti-

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tions were filed, 1 of which was disposed of, and the other is still in dependence.

Settlement of Malacca.

Medical—The health of the Settlement of Malacca has been fair through 1877.

Cholera occurred during the months of March and April, and small-pox at the later end of the year.

General Hospital.—There were 171 admissions into this hospital during the year, including 99 admissions from the police force, against 117 in 1876, showing a large increase.

The average daily number of sick has been 6·19 and the percentage of deaths to total treated 4·02. During the year 163 patients were discharged cured, 1 absconded, and 7 died, and 3 remaining under treatment at the end of the year. With regard to the cases treated, malarial fevers of the intermittent variety appear most prominent, 74 having been admitted.

The sum realised from paying patients was as follows:—

	$.	cts.
From police force - - -	60	09½
From private individual - -	105	51
	165	60½

Criminal and Civil Prison Hospitals.—The sanitary condition of the prison and hospitals has been good throughout the year 1877. 106 cases were admitted into the hospital during the year. There has been no deaths. The daily number of patients has been 6·84, and the number of prisoners, 67·15.

Lock Hospital.—The sanitary condition of this hospital has been satisfactory.

The number of admissions for the year has been 87, more than double the number admitted during the year 1876, which was 39.

The average daily sick was 5·19. There has been no deaths. The prevailing affection has been gonorrhœa, of which 72 cases were treated. The examinations are conducted monthly.

Pauper Hospital.—This hospital occupies the same building as the General.

Three hundred and thirty-five cases were admitted during the year, against 185 in 1876, showing a decided increase. The average daily number of patients was 38·49. The number of deaths being 56, or 15·34 per cent. of total nnmber treated. Of these 10 died within 24 hours after admission and 17 within a week. With regard to cases treated in hospital, the largest number being ulcers, which amounted to 75.

Leper Hospital.—This hospital is situated at Pulo Serimboon, a small island 7 miles south from the Port of Malacca. 6 patients were admitted during the year. The average daily sick has been 22·7, deaths occurred during the year being 25 per cent. of the total number treated.

The treatment by gurgeon oil is carried on in this asylum, and is doing remarkably well.

Vaccination.— Vaccination has been carried on regularly during the past year, and has been less expensive than the previous year, the cost of each successful case being 98 cents. against $1 66 in 1876.

The total number of cases vaccinated have been 1,003 to 410 last year.

Malacca Prison.

Staff.—1 superintendent, 1 European warder, 1 Portuguese sub-warder, and 10 native sub-warders.

A non-commissioned officer and six privates of the detachment of European Infantry stationed at Malacca mount guard at the prison daily.

Employment of Prisoners.—Revenue and non-payment of fine cases were employed cleaning drains, sweeping, removing rubbish, and on all duties and fatigues within the prison.

Lower grade and short-sentenced prisoners were employed in breaking stones within the prison, and carrying stones in and out of the prison.

Lower grade and all short-sentenced prisoners such as are sentenced to rigorous imprisonment or imprisonment at hard labour for a period not exceeding six months, excepting revenue cases and those imprisoned for non-payment of fine, have two hours shot drill daily, one hour in the morning and one in the evening.

Hours of labour from 6 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 till 5 p.m. daily. Sundays excepted.

Prisoners are out of their wards and cells at 5.30 a.m. and shut up by 6 p.m.

For criminal prisoners there are 32 separate cells and 4 association wards. The cells and wards are lofty and well ventilated. The corridors are lighted at night, patrolled by one of the sub-warders, and inspected by the superintendent and European warder during the night.

One sentry from the European guard patrols in rear of the prison inside during the day, at 6 p.m. when the prisoners are locked up for the night he is withdrawn, and two sentries are then posted, one in front and one in rear of the prison outside during the night, extending their beats sufficiently to see along the side walls.

Buildings.—The body of the building is in a sound state. New window frames with iron cross-bars were replaced in the association wards in the criminal prison ; a few decayed beams in the roof of the gaol office and guard room were replaced, and the whole of the buildings whitewashed.

The repairs were all executed by the Public Works Department.

Dietary.—The diet of the prisoners was of good quality and sufficient quantity. Those under punishment in the cells received bread and water, or rice and water only.

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Water Supply.—There are six wells in the prison, these afford a good supply of water, and the quality is fair.

There were 307 persons committed to the criminal prison during the year; 211 were sentenced to 3 months or less, 56 for more than 3 months and less than 1 year, 25 for 1 year or more but less than 5 years, 13 for 5 years or more but less than 14 years, 1 for 14 years, and 1 for 20 years.

Twenty-nine prisoners were committed once previously, 6 twice, and 4 thrice or more.

The number of prisoners admitted during the years 1876 and 1877 were respectively 229,307, showing an increase during last year of 78 prisoners.

Three hundred and eight prisoners were discharged during the year, of those 154 gained weight; the average duration of imprisonment of each man was 75 days, and the average gain per man 5 lbs. 5 ozs.

Fifty-eight lost weight; the average duration of imprisonment of each man was 35 days, and the average loss per man 2 lbs. 15 ozs.

The remainder 96 left the prison the same weight with which they had entered it.

Number and Disposal of Prisoners in the Criminal Prison during 1877.

In custody 1st Jannary 1877 - - - -	42
Received during 1877 - - - -	307
Total - -	349
Disposed of during 1877 - - - -	308
In custody 31st December 1877 - - -	41
Total - -	349

The daily average number in the criminal prison was	43·87
The daily average number of sick in hospital -	3·41
Highest number of prisoners at any one time throughout the year - - - - - -	68
Lowest - - - - - -	29

Nationalities.

	Male.	Female.
Europeans - - - - -	3	—
Chinese - - - - -	221	1
Malays - - - - -	57	1
Indians - - - - -	24	—
Total -	305	2

How disposed of.

Released by expiry of sentence - - -	239
„ payment of fine - - - -	9
„ on bail under warrant of the police magistrate - - - - - -	18
Transferred to the civil prison - - -	4
„ to the criminal prison, Singapore - -	38
Total -	308

Ages of the Prisoners in Custody duriug 1877.

Under 17 years - - - - - -	1
Seventeen „ - - - - -	1
Under 30 „ - - - - -	118
„ 45 „ - - - - -	150
Higher ages - - - - - -	37
	307

Punishments during the Year.

Confinement in a punishment cell on rice and water -	8
Flogged - - - - - -	15

Escapes.

There have been no escapes during the year.

Education.

Can read and write - - - - -	55
Neither read nor write - - - -	252
Total -	307

In the civil prison there were confined during the year 1877—

—	For Safe Custody.		Trial.		Simple Imprisonment.		Debtors.		Lunatics.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Remaining 1st Jan. 1877 - -	4	—	16	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	23	—
Received during the year - -	179	4	48	—	9	1	10	—	11	—	257	5
											280	5
Disposed of during the year - -	180	4	64	—	9	1	10	—	10	—	273	5
In custody 31st Dec. 1877 - -	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	7	—

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Average daily number - - - -	23·28
Average daily number of sick in hospital - -	1·46
Highest number at any one time throughout the year - - - - - -	51·
Lowest number at any one time throughout the year	6·

How disposed of.

	Males.	Females.
Released by expiry of sentence - -	16	1
Rendered in court - - - -	210	4
Convicted at assizes - - -	41	—
Transferred to the Lunatic Asylum, Singapore	4	—
Committed suicide - - - -	1	—
Executed - - - - -	1	—
Total - -	273	5

The total cost of of both criminal and civil prisons for the year 1877 was as follows:—

	$	cts.
Rations for prisoners and warders - -	2,515	42
Clothing for prisoners - - - -	124	99
Clothing, arms, and accoutrements for warders -	213	06
Lighting - - - - -	136	85
Passage of prisoners - - - -	84	90
Miscellaneous expenses - - -	248	61
Medical comforts for gaol hospital - -	55	36
Contingent expenses of gaol hospital - -	82	20
Salaries - - - - -	2,554	75
Total - - - -	6,016	14

In the civil prison a Chinese named Wang Seng, who was committed to take his trial before the Supreme Court on a charge of wrongful confinement of one Tan Ah Teng, committed suicide by hanging himself by the neck with the sleeves of his bajoo to the upper hinge of the door in the cell wherein he was confined.

A Malay who was found guilty of murder at the assizes held in March 1877 was sentenced to death and was executed on the 30th April 1877.

Conduct of the prison officers generally satisfactory.

A Chinese sub-warder (the only prison officer of that nationality in the prison) was detected in the act of taking letters written in Chinese out of the prison; within a few minutes, and before the case was investigated, the man ran to the native warders' room and committed suicide by hanging himself to a bar of th window with a strong silken cord that he wore round his waist.

The conduct of the prisoners was generally good, no serious cases of misconduct or breaches of prison discipline occurred during the year

Ecclesiastical Report for the Year 1877.

The work of this department during the first half year of 1877 offers little subject for remark.

The Bishop of the Diocese visited this Settlement in April and held confirmations here and at Klang, where the Chaplain of Malacca attended him, and where he also consecrated a Christian burial ground.

During the latter part of the year the work of this department has been subjected to serious interruption by the protracted absence of the Colonial Chaplain, who was sent to act as Chaplain of Penang in July last. The services of the church here have from that time been alternately supplied by clergymen from Singapore and laymen of the congregation in Malacca, the latter having very kindly volunteered their services.

Shipping.

The annexed shows the comparative statement of shipping between the years 1876 and 1877, from which it will be seen that the number of vessels that entered the port exhibits an increase of 763, but a decrease of 61,422 in tonnage.

The number that cleared outwards was increased by 874, but was decreased by 11,877 in tonnage.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING between the years 1876 and 1877.

Inwards.				Outwards.			
1876.		1877.		1876.		1877.	
Vessels, No.	Tonnage.	Vessels, No.	Tonnage.	Vessels. No.	Tonnage.	Vessels, No.	Tonnage.
539	156,642	1,302	95,220	537	155,777	1,411	143,900

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports during the year 1877 was $1,780,421, and the exports amounted to $1,673,661.

General Remarks.

There was little change in this Settlement for the year 1877 and the hopes of a much larger revenue expressed in my report for last year were not realized; still there was a small increase of $5,499 over that of the preceding year, notwithstanding the season was an unusually dry one, especially the latter part of the year, which seriously affected the padi harvest planted for 1878;

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the fall in the home price of tin, together with the increased cost of producing it from want of water, and the high price of rice during the greater part of the year, reduced the tin workings by one half of that for 1876. When the new land regulations are definitely settled and the survey staff placed on a more satisfactory footing, both of which measures are now under consideration of his Excellency in Council, I feel sure there will be a marked improvement in the land revenue. The weakness of the Survey Department, which was first pointed out in my Blue Book Report for 1870, has been the cause of much loss in the revenue, and to explain this more fully I annex a short tabular statement of the present condition of the lands of the Settlement.

	Sq. Acres.	Sq. Acres.
Lands cultivated - - -	145,219	—
„ uncultivated - - -	276,541	421,760
„ cultivated and surveyed -	127,719	—
„ „ unsurveyed (approximately)	17,500	145,219
Tapioca plantations surveyed -	53,347	—
„ unsurveyed and encroachments (approximately)	5,000	—
Other lands. Uncultivated forest reserves - - - -	26,337	—
Forest lands (approximately) -	100,000	—
Waste lands „ - -	150,204	276,541
Area of territory - - -	—	421,760

By which it will be seen that out of the total area, 421,760 square acres, about 145,219 are under cultivation, take the minimum rent of one acre at 25 cents (tenths in lieu of rent are considerably more), and that would yield a yearly rental of $36,000, whereas that collected for 1877 was only $21,276. With the increased rental of 75 cents. per acre which has been decided on for the future by his Excellency in Council, the land revenue should soon produce $50,000 per annum, more than double its present revenue, it may, therefore, be fairly said that the Settlement of Malacca is progressing favourably.

(Signed) EDWARD W. SHAW,
Lieutenant-Governor.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1876, 1877, AND 1878.

(*In continuation of* [C.-2273.] *of* 1879.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1879.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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1879.

[C.—2444.]

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JAMAICA.

No. 1.

Governor Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to The Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, King's House, March 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to enclose the annual report to accompany the Blue Book returns for the year 1876–77, and I have to express my great regret that it has been so long delayed.

2. The report has been prepared in the Colonial Secretary's Department under the superintendence of Mr. Edward Noel Walker, the Assistant Colonial Secretary. It relates to a period of which only a few weeks were included in my administration, and of which I therefore know very little. The year is stated to have been one of great commercial depression, and no doubt the imports and the revenue from import duties fell far short of the average of recent years, but the depression has since been shown to be transitory, and the returns for the period itself demonstrate that there was no true retrogression nor arrested development in the production and in the substantial prosperity of the community. There is clear evidence in the facts disclosed by them of unpretentious advance in many directions of social improvement.

3. I would point attention to the several comparative tables included in this return, embracing a period of 10 years, which all show growth and expansion quite remarkable for any community.

4. There are few Colonies which can boast as Jamaica can, that she has paid off nearly a quarter of a million of general debt in 10 years, and that she does not now owe more than two years' revenue, even including loans for special services like the irrigation and the water works, and also the heavy liability (more than doubled in 10 years) of 150,000*l.*, which has accrued as debt for immigration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Legislation.

During the year under review 19 laws were passed by the Legislature, the more important of which are the following, viz.:—

Law 3 of 1877. "A Law for the further amendment of the "Law of Evidence."

This law, which is almost in the words of the Imperial Statute 32 & 33 Vict. c. 68., brings the law of evidence in this Colony into accordance with the English law as amended by that Act.

L 321. Wt. B 1119.

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Law 4 of 1877. "A Law to authorise persons arrested as "witnesses in cases for investigation or trial before Justices of the "Peace to be admitted to bail."

Under the provisions of the Jamaica Act, 13 Vict. c. 24., where a charge or complaint for an indictable offence was made before a magistrate, and it appeared that a witness was likely to give material evidence for the prosecution, the magistrate might secure his attendance by issuing a warrant for his arrest at once.

By Law 24 of 1872, founded on the Imperial Act 30 & 31 Vict. c. 35., it was provided that upon the hearing of such charge or complaint witnesses might be called for the defence, and their depositions taken in the same way as in the case of witnesses for the prosecution.

In practice it had been assumed that under this latter Act the attendance of a witness on behalf of the accused may be secured by warrant and arrest in anticipation in the same way as in the case of a witness for the prosecution.

Hitherto there had been no provision under which persons arrested in this way could be admitted to bail, nor so long as the practice applied only to witnesses for the prosecution was there much need of it, inasmuch as there was no reason why such witnesses should not be brought up and examined without delay. But under the practice as applied to witnesses on behalf of the accused, this inconvenience arose, that a witness so arrested might be shut up during the whole time the case for the prosecution lasted.

A case of a serious character illustrating the hardship of this state of things having occurred, the present law was introduced with the object of meeting the difficulty.

Law 5 of 1877. "A Law to quiet Rights and Titles acquired "under insufficiently stamped deeds and instruments executed "out of this Island."

Upon a question raised before the Vice-Chancellor as to whether a conveyance of land in this Island, executed partly in this Island and partly in England, required to be stamped under the British Stamp Laws, the Vice-Chancellor held that the court was bound to take notice of the Stamp Law of the United Kingdom, and that under that law the deed required an English deed stamp so far as regarded its execution in England.

A petition was soon afterwards presented to the Legislative Council by the solicitors of Jamaica, in which it was alleged that, under a general practice opposed to the law so laid down, deeds and instruments had up to that time been admitted in evidence without the British stamps, and that titles and rights were depending thereon.

The object of this law is to provide against the consequences which may be attributable to this practice now pronounced to be illegal without in any way condoning a breach of the English Stamp Laws, and to give for the future to persons who require to put such insufficiently stamped deeds in evidence the same facilities for stamping them that are afforded under the English

law, subject to such conditions as may afford the British revenue the same protection that it has in England under like circumstances.

For this purpose provisions similar to those of sections 28 and 29 of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1854 (Imperial), have been adopted, together with a clause directing the remission of duties and penalties collected in this Island to England.

Law 6 of 1877. "A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws "relating to Prædial Larceny."

It was found that prædial larceny was a growing evil in this Island, while it was proved by testimony from various parts of the Island that the frequency of the offence was out of all proportion to the number of cases in which detection and punishment followed.

This was attributed to the inadequacy of the punishment provided by law for first offences, to the comparative rareness of punishment as for second offences, owing mainly to the difficulty of bringing home previous convictions, and to the circumstances under which the thefts were committed and the ease with which the stolen property might be disposed of.

As regards the first point, this law proceeds upon the principle of increasing the severity of punishment for first offences, and with respect to thefts from provision grounds the principle of whipping for a first offence has been adopted. This was in response to a circular inquiry from Government, recommended by the judges of the Supreme Court, by most of the district court judges and stipendiary magistrates, by the custodes of parishes, by many influential ministers of religion of all denominations, and lastly by many of those who themselves belong to the class immediately affected. On the other hand, the planters who are not particularly interested in the welfare of provision grounds made no special representations on the subject.

The sentence of whipping is to be carried out subject to the law now in force, except that the whipping may be public where the judge awarding it thinks fit, and such sentence may be awarded only by judges of circuit or district courts.

With respect to thefts of logwood, &c. from lands not appropriated to cultivation, the offence has been redefined with reference to a value limit, the punishment of a fine, which was a recent innovation, and which appeared to be inappropriate to offences of this class, has been abolished, and the punishment by imprisonment for first offences has been largely increased.

The desirability of redefining the offence with reference to a value limit was suggested by the fact that thefts of this kind have in some instances assumed a grave character, the depredators going out in organised gangs, and offering violence to those who interfered with them. On the other hand thefts of the same kind to the value of a few pounds or shillings are of constant occurrence.

The increased punishment for a first offence is provided in view of the fact that the former lighter punishment had been thoroughly tried, the full term being repeatedly awarded without

JAMAICA.

effect: the addition of whipping for a second offence of this class is merely an extended application of a principle already accepted.

As regards the second point, the law makes provision for searching premises without a search warrant, for dealing with persons found in possession of the stolen property and not accounting satisfactorily for it, for allowing evidence to be given in proceedings for the wrongful possession of stolen property, of former possession of stolen property by the person accused.

These provisions are adapted from the Imperial Act 34 & 35 Vict. c. 112. (Prevention of Crime Act).

To meet the evil arising from the existence of regular dealers whose business it was to purchase small lots of stolen logwood, dealers are prohibited from buying less than 500 lbs. weight at a time.

The operation of the law has been the object of a close supervision, and has formed the subject of special reports with a view to considering the propriety of its continuance or amendment.

Law 7 of 1877. "A Law to provide for the more convenient "administration of 'The Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873.'"

The object of this law, as is stated in the preamble, is to confer on the police and stipendiary magistrates of this Colony the like powers and authorities in relation to the surrender of fugitive criminals as are by the Imperial Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873, vested in police magistrates and justices of the peace in the United Kingdom.

Law 8 of 1877. "A Law in aid of the Laws relating to weights "and measures."

This law imposes on clerks of petty sessions the duty of keeping the copies or models of the standard weights and measures, and to perform certain duties in relation to their care and use in the same manner as clerks of the peace under 6 Vict. c. 28. When the office of clerks of the peace was abolished by Law 3 of 1870 there was apparently an oversight in not specifically providing for these duties.

Law 10 of 1877. "A Law to define what amount of punish-"ment may be awarded by district courts for offences tried "therein."

This is a law to allay doubts which have arisen as to the nature and amount of the punishments that may be awarded by the district courts for offences triable therein, and remodels the definition of the powers of district courts in the matter of sentences.

Law 13 of 1877. "A Law in aid of the Sanitary Laws."

By Law 6 of 1876, "A Law to establish Boards of Health," local boards of health are empowered to make byelaws with respect to certain matters specified in section 14 of that law. The object of this law is merely to add certain other matters to that list. The matters here added relate to the pollution of water supply.

Law 15 of 1877. "A Law in aid of the Reformatories Law, "1869."

This law gives the Inspector of Prisons full powers of general supervision, inspection, and control over the management of Government reformatories, in addition to and quite apart from the duties imposed on the board of visitors of the reformatory.

Law 16 of 1877. "The Spanish Town Water Supply Law, "1877."

The object of this law is to improve the supply of water for household and other purposes by a branch from the main branch of the Rio Cobre irrigation canal. At present the supply is obtained by pumping the water up from the Rio Cobre as it passes the town, and only a limited supply is obtained. It is therefore very desirable that the supply should be improved and increased. The improvement will, of course, necessitate a small outlay, to be recouped by the revenues to be raised from a compulsory rate within the limits of the town, which will, indeed, not fall on householders generally much more heavily than the present voluntary payments for an uncertain supply of water.

Law 17 of 1877. "The Bankruptcy Jurisdiction Amendment " Law, 1877."

The scope of this measure is simply to introduce certain modifications in the jurisdiction which has hitherto prevailed in bankruptcy cases. Until this law was passed, the district courts were the only courts of bankruptcy, and this fact not unfrequently caused great inconvenience.

The object of this law, therefore, is to give the Supreme Court, as the chief court of bankruptcy, jurisdiction in bankruptcy, provision being also made for the transfer of bankruptcies from the chief court to district courts, and *vice versâ*, according to circumstances. Except in cases where the estate is below a certain limit, or where for other reasons it may be desirable to proceed in the district court, all bankruptcy cases will be taken in the Supreme Court, to be called for that purpose the Chief Court of Bankruptcy. There is no substantive amendment of the Bankruptcy Law, 25 of 1871, proposed: it is merely a matter of procedure and jurisdiction.

Law 18 of 1877. "The Customs Consolidation Law, 1877."

This law makes "entire provision" within the meaning of section 151 of the Imperial Customs Laws Consolidation Act, 39 & 40 Vict. c. 36., "for the management and regulation of the " customs" of the Island of Jamaica.

The general provisions of the law are largely framed upon the model of the Imperial Customs Consolidation Act, 39 & 40 Vict. c. 36.

Law 19 of 1877. "A Law for the Registration of Births and " Deaths in Jamaica."

The necessity for the enactment of this law and its scope are self-evident and require no remarks from me. It was brought into active operation on the 1st April last, and will doubtless afford vital statistics of much interest and value to the community.

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Finance.

The accounts of the year 1876–77, excluding the immigration accounts, which are separately treated, but including the locally appropriated and administered services, show a deficit of revenue within that year under the expenditure of 1,752*l.*, exclusive of the payments made on debt account, which have hitherto been shown as a deduction from surpluses of former years, and which are specified later.

The following figures give the actual results of the year 1876–77:—

	£
General revenues - - -	419,989
General expenditure - -	425,898
Deficit - - -	5,909
Appropriated revenues - -	72,564
Appropriated expenditure - -	68,407
Surplus - - -	4,157

showing that the deficit existed only in the revenue for general services. The surplus from the appropriated revenues will be carried to the credit of the several respective local parochial funds.

To the deficit on general services account must be added the sums of 6,400*l.* paid during the year for redemption of debt, and 11,291*l.*, invested in sinking funds, making the total deficit 23,600*l.* This amount is reduced to the extent of 19,190*l.* by the surplus balances of previous years in hand on 1st October 1876, thus finally leaving the net deficit of 4,410*l.* to be met from the revenues of the year 1877–78.

Immigration Services.

The revenue and expenditure on account of immigration during 1876–77 were as follows:—

	£
Revenue - - -	40,234
Expenditure - -	41,900

The excess of expenditure over revenue, as well as the payments for redemption of debt and investment in sinking funds, were met in greater part from moneys raised by debentures issued under the Immigration Loan Acts; but these borrowing powers having thus become exhausted, there still remained a debit balance of 1,823*l.* at the close of the year, which was taken over, with the accumulated net debt of 144,113*l.*,* as a charge on the general

£	£
*	152,538
4,214	
4,210	
	8,424
	144,113

(Pages 12 & 13 of Financial Acts.)

revenue under the recent re-arrangement for defraying the cost for future immigration, and formed part of the immigration charges in 1877–78 met from the moneys raised under the loan authorised by Law 1 of 1878.

The following table shows the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year 1876–77, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding :—

—	1876–77.	1875–76.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Import duties	233,663	261,297	—	27,634
Light dues	2,494	3,020	—	526
Harbour masters' fees	816	473	343	—
Rum duties	92,512	95,480	—	2,968
Licenses	18,371	17,446	925	—
Stamps	15,842	16,495	—	653
Postal revenues	14,997	15,875	—	878
Court fees	8,755	8,943	—	188
Fines and forfeitures	2,649	3,694	—	1,045
Interest on securities for sinking funds	3,170	2,743	427	—
Interest other than as above	2,295	3,744	—	1,449
Reimbursements for expenditure	20,318	16,228	4,090	—
Miscellaneous	3,572	2,349	1,223	—
Forfeited Chancery deposits	536	9,381	—	8,845
	419,990	457,168	—	37,178
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues	36,129	36,597	—	468
Kingston street tax	1,164	1,347	—	183
Parochial municipal revenues	5,876	6,080	—	204
Poor rates	26,143	24,314	1,829	—
Sanitary rates	2,236	3,110	—	874
Fire rates	1,016	1,119	—	103
	72,564	72,567	—	3
Immigration Revenues.				
Export duties	19,467	20,509	—	1,042
Capitation tax, &c.	13,793	15,723	—	1,930
Interest on securities for sinking funds	274	206	68	—
Other interest	1,700	1,513	187	—
Contribution from general revenues	5,000	5,000	—	—
	40,234	42,951	—	2,717
	532,788	572,686	—	39,898
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Immigration loan	9,200	23,600	—	14,400
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	6,372	—	6,372	—
Grand total receipts	548,360	596,286	—	47,926

JAMAICA.

On comparing the general revenue of 1876–77 with that of 1875–76 there appears the large decrease of 37,178*l.*, which is caused principally by smaller receipts under the heads of import duties, rum duties, and forfeited Chancery deposits, the falling off under the first two heads being attributed to a stagnation in trade consequent on extensive commercial failures which occurred during the year. The large receipts under the head of forfeited Chancery deposits in the year 1875–76 were entirely exceptional, owing to the falling in of a considerable estate, and no such revenue from the source was expected in the following year.

Below is a table showing an abstract of the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account of current expenditure and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year :—

——	1876–77.	5–76. 187	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	34,494	36,404	—	1,910
Pensions	11,939	11,366	573	—
Administrative departments	33,554	32,428	1,126	—
Revenue departments	32,910	32,763	147	—
Postal service	15,858	16,574	—	716
Judicial	35,576	34,704	872	—
Ecclesiastical	12,583	14,643	—	2,060
Medical	37,241	35,438	1,803	—
Constabulary	48,736	47,251	1,485	—
Penitentiary and prisons	27,297	29,609	—	2,312
Reformatories	4,876	4,894	—	18
Education	21,311	21,271	40	—
Harbour master	660	130	530	—
Colonial allowances to troops	4,321	4,559	—	238
Pilotage and harbour boards	321	172	149	—
Miscellaneous	10,013	10,756	—	743
Steam communication with America	5,159	4,550	609	—
Stationery for public departments	3,395	2,747	648	—
Colonisation of immigrants	5,000	5,000	—	—
Public library and museum	571	526	45	—
Public plantations and gardens	4,215	4,933	—	718
Public works	71,953	71,622	331	—
Lighthouses	1,330	1,385	—	55
Parochial expenditure	2,586	2,706	—	120
	425,899	426,431	—	532
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.				
Parochial roads	31,831	29,553	2,278	—
Kingston streets	489	564	—	75
Parochial municipal objects	2,651	2,019	632	—
Relief of the poor	29,152	24,205	4,947	—
Sanitary rates	3,216	3,135	81	—
Fire rates	1,068	970	98	—
	68,407	60,446	7,961	—
	494,306	486,877	7,429	—

—	1876–77.	1875–76.	Increase.	Decrease.
Disbursements other than Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Sinking funds - - -	11,291	10,457	834	—
Redemption of debt - -	7,200	37,600	—	30,400
Excess of withdrawals over deposits	—	4,235	—	4,235
Total disbursements, exclusive of charges on Immigration Fund account - - - -	512,797	539,169	—	26,372
Immigration - - -	41,900	50,482	—	8,582
Grand total disbursements -	554,697	589,651	—	34,954

The general expenditure in 1876–77, including sinking funds and redemption of debt, appears at 34,283*l.* less than that in 1875–76, but this is mainly attributable to the larger redemption of debt in the former year. The increases under the heads of administrative departments, medical and constabulary, being counterbalanced by savings under interest, ecclesiastical and prisons. Under appropriated services, however, the expenditure on parochial roads and relief of the poor appears more by some 7,000*l.* than the similar expenditure in the year before. The decrease on account of immigration services is owing to no immigrants having been introduced in 1876–77, which had been a charge of 15,188*l.* in the previous year, while there was necessary to provide in this year, a vessel for return immigrants, and to pay an increased amount of colonisation bounty to those immigrants who elected to remain in the Colony.

Pensions.

During the year five pensions were granted in consequence of retirement from office, amounting in all to 949*l.*, and including that of 350*l.* to the late Emigration Agent in India, which has been made a charge on immigration funds; and the pension list was relieved by deaths to the extent of 1,461*l.* Mr. Horton died within a few days of his retirement from the office of Superintendent of the Penitentiary on a pension after a long and faithful service. The pensioners included two retired ministers on the establishment of the Church of England, thus affording a relief on account of ecclesiastical services.

Debt.

No loan chargeable to the general revenues of the Colony was raised in the year 1876–77.

Debentures for a further sum of 9,200*l.* were, however, issued under the Immigration Loan Acts on account of the Immigration Fund, and 5,000*l.* by the Kingston Gas Commissioners, 1,000*l.* by the Kingston Slaughter-house Commissioners, and 2,600*l.* by the Rio Cobre Canal Commissioners, were raised to meet expenses connected with those respective works.

JAMAICA.

During the year 6,400*l.* of debt on general account, and 800*l.* on account of the Kingston street loan out of the surplus of the special fund provided for that purpose, were paid off, as well as 8,600*l.* of the debentures issued for immigration purposes.

A sum of 11,291*l.* was also invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, and an investment of 1,833*l.* was made by way of sinking fund on the immigration loans.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenues stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1868 - -	706,794	18	10	1873 - -	554,492	18	11
1869 - -	686,830	9	2	1874 - -	539,108	8	2
1870 - -	609,505	11	3	1875 - -	548,024	3	7
1871 - -	591,656	5	6	1876 - -	501,413	8	5
1872 - -	571,542	1	3	1877 - -	485,107	11	5

From this amount are excluded the loans raised for the following special objects :—

	£
Rio Cobre Canal - - -	126,500
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks	128,200
Kingston markets - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - -	10,000

The interest paid on debt during the year amounted to 31,924*l.*, and was apportioned as follows :—

	£
On deposits in chest - -	9,078
On loans under imperial guarantee -	12,921
On Island loans - - -	9,925

The debt secured on the revenues of the Immigration Fund stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last ten years :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1868 - -	64,176	14	3	1873 - -	78,283	4	9
1869 - -	59,213	8	3	1874 - -	126,428	5	6
1870 - -	56,138	0	0	1875 - -	130,203	8	1
1871 - -	84,169	7	0	1876 - -	145,292	8	5
1872 - -	80,564	16	7	1877 - -	148,327	5	8

The interest paid on immigration loans during the year amounted to 7,403*l.*, viz. :—

	£
On guaranteed loans - - -	1,530
Immigration further loan - -	5,873

Legislative Council.

Sir William Grey, K.C.S.I., having relinquished the Government on 10th March, its administration was assumed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Rushworth, C.M.G., whose long public career was sadly terminated by death on the 10th August.

In consequence of the demise of the Lieutenant-Governor, Major-General Mann, R.E., Director of Roads and Surveyor-General, assumed the Government as President of the Privy Council, under an appointment previously made by the late Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Sir Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G., arrived in the Island on the 24th of August, and immediately assumed the Government.

Mr. Leicester Colville Shirley was appointed by Her Majesty's warrant in April an unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

Land.

During the year two properties, containing 273 acres in all, and two sets of premises in the city of Kingston were taken possession of by the Government under the District Courts Law, 1874, and 42 squatters thereon were ejected.

Land to the extent of 3,368 acres was leased during the year to various persons, and 882 acres were sold.

Under the Land Laws of the Colony the Government has for some years past been taking possession of unclaimed lands and lands squatted on; these lands have been recovered under Law 37 of 1867, and 22 of 1874.

The Government hold these lands as trustees for the owners, who may recover the same upon payment of the expenses at any time during seven years from their first possession by the Government, but after seven years the Government has the power to sell these lands.

Twenty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-five acres of land have been recovered from squatters; these lands are situated in various parts of the Island, and consist chiefly of abandoned estates and plantations, whose owners were not known and who had so neglected their properties that they fell into the hands of squatters.

Nearly all of these lands are now rented out by the Government on seven years leases, and a good revenue is now being derived from them.

There are also large tracts of land forfeited to the Crown for nonpayment of quit-rents under Law 5 of 1871. Of these there are now nearly 90,000 acres in possession of the Government, a small quantity of which has already been appropriated, but a very large area remains, which is offered to settlers.

This land is chiefly in the interior of the Island, and much of it is very advantageously situated, and suitable for new settlements.

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A large portion of it extends over the northern portion of the parish of St. Thomas and the southern part of Portland. All this region consists of virgin land, and is well watered with numerous springs and rivers. It possesses a most salubrious climate, and ranges from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height, and it embraces some of the finest coffee land in the Island.

The geological formation is chiefly of trappean and metamorphosed series, and it is of the same character as the once rich coffee lands in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Thomas, but as these are getting worn out, this land is the only remaining coffee land of a first class character in the island. They are also rich in minerals—copper, cobalt, and lead having already been discovered in several places.

The climate in the higher lands is extremely cool, and suited to the labour of white men in the open air. European fruits have been cultivated in similar localities in this Island.

The Jamaica cinchona plantations are situated on parts of these lands, and have already proved that cinchona bark can be successfully cultivated in this Island.

If roads were properly constructed through these lands, very extensive coffee districts would be opened, and with sufficient labour to develop them there is no doubt that in a very few years they would be a source of great wealth.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works under all heads was 86,846*l.*, classified as follows:—

	£	£
Roads and bridges:		
Maintenance and repair of main roads and bridges	24,884	
New works on main roads and bridges	7,594	
Parochial services	258	
		32,736
Services other than roads and bridges:		
Miscellaneous repairs and maintenance of public buildings	11,102	
New works to public buildings	19,868	
Lighthouses	1,316	
Rio Cobre Canal works	2,758	
Kingston gasworks	4,892	
Public gardens	3,423	
Expenses in connexion with lands	644	
Rents, taxes, and water rates	218	
Salaries of the department	9,838	
Office contingencies	51	
		54,110
		£86,846

The amount expended for maintenance and repair of roads and bridges was 828*l.* above the sum allotted in the estimates. This excess was due to the fact of the rainy seasons having proved more than usually destructive to the roads, especially to those between Bath, Manchioneal, Port Antonio, and Buff Bay, and between Spanish Town and Linstead.

The contract system, which continues to work advantageously, is in force for the maintenance of 335 miles of main road.

The average cost of maintenance this year was 34*l.* a mile.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
In 1875–76 it was	33	7	0	a mile.
In 1874–75 „	49	16	0	„
In 1873–74 „	37	0	0	„
In 1872–73 „	33	0	0	„
In 1871–72 „	31	0	0	„

Among the new works on main roads, which are generally in good order throughout the Island, are the following:—

The road at Burlington Hill, in Portland, has had parapet walls erected as a protection against accidents, and underground drains provided.

A diversion of the main road at Black Hill, in Portland, has been carried on and nearly completed.

A diversion of the main road at Kildare, in Portland, to avoid the sea beach encroached upon by the sea, has been nearly finished.

The old wooden bridge over the Middle River at Annotto Bay has been undergoing renewal with iron girders and hardwood superstructure, and is nearly completed.

The approaches to the Pencar Bridge in the same town have been improved and the bridge repaired.

The renewal of the bridge at Moore Hall has been carried on: iron girders have been imported from England, carried to the site, and the work now approaches completion.

Retaining walls have been erected at Richmond Castle and some other places between the 22nd and 23rd mile on the Annotto Bay Junction Road.

The ironwork for a new bridge at White River has been received from England, carried to the spot, and the work of erection is now rapidly advancing. This bridge is to consist of three spans, a central one of 54 feet and one on each side of 23 feet, in all 100 feet. The central span will be supported on cast-iron screw piles carrying two warren girders: the abutments are to be of masonry. The superstructure will be of iron with buckled plates, and a covering of metal over all.

The diversion of main road at Llanrumney, in St. Mary, has been carried on, opened for traffic last August, and since then completed.

Grandy Hole and Cha Cha spring bridges on the Grand Junction Road have been refloored.

The diversion of the road at New Savanna on the line from Luana to Chester Castle has been completed; some other parts of this line have also been improved.

The raising and improving of the main road between the 27 and 33½ miles on the road from Dry River to Porus has been continued.

The improvement by blasting and widening of the main road from Lime Savanna to Chapelton (taken on as a main road in the previous year) has been continued and well advanced; some culverts have also been constructed thereon.

Barton Bridge, in St. Elizabeth, has been restored with new iron girders and flooring.

A part of the main road at Mosquito Cove has been raised and some culverts constructed there.

A similar improvement has been made to the main road at Kew Estate.

A breakwater to protect the Waterloo road where it skirts the sea at Lucea has been commenced.

A bridge to carry the main road over a watercourse at Harding Hall Estate has been commenced; the work is under contract. It is to have a single span of 27 feet, stone abutments, girders of rolled wrought iron, each in one piece, the superstructure of hardwood.

The Dias Road, *i.e.*, from the 14th to the 18th milepost on the main road from Glasgow to Lucea, has been considerably improved with a large addition of metal, and a timber retaining slope at two places.

The retaining wall of the road at the "Landslip" on the Bog Walk Road has been completed in a way that has given much additional security to that part of the road.

Besides the works named above, considerable improvements beyond ordinary maintenance, such as the construction of culverts (especially in the southern district), parapet walls, painting and repairs of bridges, widening parts, and special heavy metalling over sundry parts of roads have been carried out.

Churches, Chapels, and Rectories.

The roofs of Trinity and St. Peter's churches in Westmoreland have had thorough and extensive repairs executed on them, and considerable repairs have been effected to the main structures of St. Mary's and Savanna la Mar churches, in Westmoreland; St. Mary's Church, in St. Elizabeth; Chapelton Rectory, Montego Bay Church, and Montpelier Church.

Courts and Public Offices.

Estensive repairs have been effected on the following buildings:—

The Island Secretary's office, Spanish Town.

The Court House, Old Harbour.

„ St. Mary, not completed by 30th September.

The Court House, Chapelton.
" Montego Bay.
" Miles Town, Hanover.
" Lucea.

The following have been painted:—Falmouth Court House; the Alley Court House.

Prison Reformatories and Police Stations.

Extensive general repairs and alterations have been effected at the Stony Hill Reformatory, and extensive repairs have been executed to several prisons and police stations.

A residence for the Deputy Superintendent of the General Penitentiary has been built.

The range of 48 cells commenced last year at the St. Catherine's district prison has been completed.

Hospitals and Asylums.

Extensive general repairs and various improvements have been effected at the Public Hospital, Kingston.

The roofs of the male and female "A" wards of the Lunatic Asylum have been raised so as to afford additional accommodation for about 44 patients.

The new Lepers' Home near Spanish Town, capable of accommodating 64 males and 32 females has been completed, and handed over to the medical department for occupation.

Miscellaneous.

A new saving's bank adjoining the Treasury and Audit Office has been provided in a building purchased last year.

An office for the Harbour Master has been built on the land where the Kingston Custom House stands.

Sixty-five acres of land, forming a portion of a property through which the Rio Cobre Canal runs, have been enclosed, and the greater part has been planted in guinea grass. It now forms a pasture for Government stock, and will eventually produce an abundance of guinea grass. The place affords a fair illustration of the benefits of irrigation.

A valuable plan of the parish of Portland has been prepared from reliable surveys and documents, and has been furnished to the collector of taxes. It will prove of great service in the collection of quit-rents and taxes.

Kingston Gasworks.

The gasworks have been completed in all respects, and the city of Kingston is now lighted with gas which is admitted to be of excellent brilliancy and purity. All the buildings and appliances are now under the charge of the Kingston Gas Commissioners.

Rio Cobre Canal Works.

These works have been completed so far as it has been contemplated to carry them at present, including branches to the

Caymanas and towards Port Henderson, Cumberland Pen, and Old Harbour. There can be no doubt that although the revenue from these works is not yet sufficient to pay any interest on or any sinking towards their cost, still the value of the land irrigated by them must have been greatly enhanced.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last nine years is shown in the following summary:—

—	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Criminal trials -	1,256	1,712	1,831	2,437	2,679	3,210	3,545	3,862	3,707
Small causes -	3,133	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982	8,531	9,446	9,212
Judgment summonses - -	—	—	—	—	843	1,397	1,511	1,736	1,670
Equity cases -	2	10	13	15	13	7	5	6	8
Cases under the Land Law -	133	137	353	485	241	228	133	309	222
Bankruptcy cases -	9	147	42	5	8	6	4	13	17
Probate cases -	35	43	42	31	29	23	39	62	93
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	22,919	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325	52,093	56,490	60,894
Judgment obtained	11,386	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773	26,048	27,970	30,976
Costs - -	2,109	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212	4,812	4,952	5,531
Court fees - -	2,154	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721	4,994	5,597	5,436

There were 13 appeals from the decisions of these courts, 11 being in civil and 2 in criminal cases. Judgment was reversed in two of the civil cases; the appeals were dismissed in one criminal case for want of prosecution, and in one civil case; another civil case was withdrawn; and in seven civil and one criminal cases the judgments of the district courts were affirmed.

Botanic Gardens.

Cinchona Plantation.—Cinchona was first planted out nine years ago, and the largest trees of *C. Succirubra*, *C. Calisaya*, and *C. Officinalis* have attained a height of over 30 feet, 26 feet, and 37 feet respectively, with girths near the ground of 2 feet 20 inches and 2 feet respectively. *C. Succirubra*, with its two or three distinct varieties, grows with greater luxuriance than any of the other species. The capacity of this species of cinchona for developing wood and bark is very remarkable, and it has been proved that the *C. Succirubra* plant will yield as much bark from a given acreage in 9 or 10 years as the *C. Calisaya* in at least 12 years, and double the quantity that the *C. Officinalis* would produce in the same number of years.

The propagation of *C. Succirubra* and *C. Calisaya* for the extension of the plantation has been carried on with greater success than had been the case for some years past. About 50,000 seedlings were in the propagating houses, and about 6,000 plants were propagated from cuttings during the year, some of which have been planted out. The self-propagation of the *C. Officinalis* has been very extensive, and altogether about 1,500 self-sown plants of the different species were transplanted. It is considered that in the course of a few years self-sown seedlings will be largely available.

There appears to be no doubt that the cinchona trees should not be cut down for the bark until they are at least 12 years old, so that no attempt has been made to obtain crops of bark for export. About 2,000 lbs. of bark have been procured, however, from trees which were removed for thinning purposes, and from trees which were hurled down the mountain slopes by the action of landslips: this bark is ready for export.

Jalap.—The aggregate crop realised in the past two years from the two acres planted out has been several thousand pounds. The proposal to export this crop has not been carried out in consequence of a representation having been received as to the English market being overstocked with jalap, and the prices of it being very low.

Eucalyptus Globulus.—Some of the trees from seedlings planted out seven years ago have attained a height of 60 feet, having trunks 3 feet in girth at a distance of 5 feet from the ground. This tree promises to prove the most valuable timber tree of the Island.

Palisadoes Plantation.—The total number of cocoanuts planted out is 13,393, 700 of which are now bearing fruit. Though the cocoa-nuts grown on the Palisadoes are small, they nevertheless yield a large proportion of oil.

Parade Garden.—The growth of the trees and shrubs in this garden is progressing favourably. Many of the trees are affording considerable shade, a most useful office of the garden situated where it is. The garden is becoming a popular place of resort for people of all classes.

Hope Experimental Plantation.—From the experimental cultivation of about 70 different varieties of sugar-cane, it has been proved that about 60 varieties are of very little value agriculturally. Ten kinds have been carefully selected and grown in half-acre plots, and the experimental cultivation will now be confined to these 10 plots, the canes from which will be exclusively set apart for public distribution.

The cultivation of the Salangore cane is becoming quite common throughout the Island, and it is highly appreciated in some parts.

Teak Trees.—There are 10 acres of these trees in cultivation, and the plants put out three years ago have attained the height of upwards of 20 feet. It is proposed to extend this cultivation at Hope considerably.

Castleton Gardens.—Among the many improvements effected in those gardens during the year, under the supervision of Mr. Jenman, the Superintendent, may be noticed the following:—

A beginning has been made towards opening the Arboretum, which had hitherto been inaccessible to visitors, by running ample paths through it; and the further efforts that have been made in levelling the surface of the Palmetum have resulted in the completion of that work. A double row of palms has been planted across the Coolies' barracks on the eastern side, to intercept the view of those buildings from the garden.

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Great advantage has been derived from changing the site of the propagation ground, both in expedition in the time taken by cuttings to root, and the very small proportion of failures, in the new ground, as compared with results in the old one.

Cultivation and Propagation of Economic Plants.—The Superintendent reports the loss of the *Nephelium Litchi*, one of the most valuable trees introduced into the garden. The Chinese cultivate it extensively and consume great quantities of the fruit.

The old pepper house has been replaced by another.

Plants and cuttings of vanilla have been freely supplied to applicants.

Arrangements have been made for meeting the large demand for orange plants occasioned by the increased fruit trade with New York.

A small parcel of Liberian coffee seed received during the year from Kew produced four dozen plants.

Two dozen plants of the East Indian mangoes have been propagated by inarching.

From a small packet of Bhilsa tobacco received last year from Kew, only a few plants were raised, which were reserved for seed bearing. About 2 lbs. of seed were saved, which have been distributed amongst the principal growers for trial and report.

Distribution and Interchange of Plants and Seeds.—During the year 5,944 plants were distributed; 874 rose cuttings were given away; 137 parcels of seed were sent out, principally to botanic gardens abroad, and twelve wardian cases and six dry cases of plants were shipped away.

The interchanges were with the Department of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A.; the Royal Gardens, Kew; the Botanic Gardens of Mauritius, Calcutta, Ceylon, Melbourne, and Adelaide; and two London nurserymen and a few private individuals abroad.

Education.

The number of schools inspected in the year 1877 was 583, as compared with 569 in the previous year; and the Government grants, including opening grants for these periods, were 17,448*l.* 3*s.* and 16,250*l.* 18*s.* respectively.

As the number of schools inspected in 1868 was 286, it will be seen that the schools under Government inspection have increased to more than double that number in 10 years.

The average attendance of scholars at the schools in 1877 was 29,185, and there were present on the inspection days 35,516, whilst the scholars on the books of all the schools numbered 50,332.

The advance of the schools from the lower to the higher classes reported last year has not continued, most of the schools having merely retained their previous positions, whilst others have retrograded.

From figures given in the Inspector's report it appears that over 50 per cent. of the children examined were reading with tolerable ease and fluency; more than 37 per cent were writing

legibly from dictation; and a little over 25 per cent. had passed through the first four rules of arithmetic, and were working their way through the higher rules. Having regard to the irregularity of attendance, which is a source of much complaint amongst the teachers, it is considered that this statement of the attainments of the pupils affords pretty good evidence of a fair amount of practical work having been accomplished in the schools.

In estimating, however, the general results of the school work, due allowance must be made to the many difficulties and obstacles with which school managers and teachers have to contend, which often materially affect their operations. Amongst these may be noticed, in addition to irregularity of attendance, the frequent change of teachers, pupils leaving school at an early age or changing from one school to another, the loss of time on account of unfavourable weather, and an inadequate supply of proper school requisites.

But taking all things into consideration, and making a fair allowance for the difficulties which the schools have had to encounter, it is thought that as much has been done as could reasonably have been expected during the first decade for which the schools have been under the Government regulation that came into operation in 1868.

The pupil-teacher system, similar to that in operation in England, has been established during the year 1877. The brief period during which the system has been in operation prevents any decided opinion being pronounced on its practical value, but there is reason to hope that it will be one means of preparing better material for the normal colleges, and, by thus providing a better class of teachers, ultimately tend to improve the tone and character of the common schools.

The Inspector of Schools enumerates as follows what he considers the proper means of improving the schools generally and advancing the cause of popular education throughout the Colony, viz., the provision (*a*) of a better class of teachers, men of a higher stamp of intellectual ability and moral character; (*b*) of a class of well-trained female teachers; (*c*) of better supplies of school appliances and better school houses; the closer supervision of the school by the more frequent visitations of the Government Inspectors; the establishment of a few really good industrial schools in different parts of the Island, or, preferably, "industrial homes" for destitute children; and the encouragement of middle class and high school education by means of pecuniary help from Government.

In concluding his report for the year 1877, the Inspector of Schools observes as follows:—"It is very gratifying to notice the "great interest that has been awakened of late on the subject of "education, and the numerous discussions and lectures with "reference thereto that have been attracting public attention. "This clearly shows that the great subject of education, which is "now occupying so much attention in all parts of the world, is "almost becoming more prominent here every year, so that we "may hope not to be left far behind in the great march of im-

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"provement that is making such rapid strides in all civilised "countries at the present time."

Immigration.

In consequence of the failure of funds, as well as of the exhaustion of borrowing powers applicable to the purpose, no immigrants were introduced during the year, although application had been made by planters for 2,790 labourers.

Pending the general settlement of the immigration question, however, the Secretary of State for the Colonies consented, at the instance of the late Lieutenant-Governor, to the despatch of two ships from India during the season of 1878.

The mortality rate among immigrants during the year was 2·34, being a slight increase over that of 1875–76, which was 2·79.

The births during the same period equal a per-centage of 2·24, and it is a matter for congratulation that the physique and degree of health attained and enjoyed by East Indian children in this Island give strong proof of the adaptability of the climate to their constitutions.

The immigrants whose term of indentured service expired during the year were those who arrived in 1872, and those whose term of 10 years' residence was completed, and who were entitled to back passages, arrived in 1867. Of these latter, 1,033 have elected to settle in Jamaica; 106 returned to India in the "Chetah" on the 24th June 1877; the remainder were not sent back during the year. The "Chetah" took away 316 souls altogether, and this number was made up of the 106 alluded to above, invalids relieved from service, and those whose residential term had not been completed, but who returned at their own cost. Of the returning immigrants, 101 lodged in all the sum of 4,689*l.* 12*s.*, and in addition these people possessed much wealth in personal ornaments.

Crime has been rare among the immigrants; only one serious case occurred, the murder, in a fit of jealous passion, of a wife by her husband.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in savings banks for the last 10 years are shown below.

Year.	Number of Depositors.		Amount of Deposits.	
				£
1868		2,524		58,913
1869		3,004		74,394
1870	*469 †2,205	2,674	*16,200 †63,486	79,686
1871	*2,024 †982	3,026	*93,776 †11,702	105,478
1872		3,396		142,240
1873		3,962		158,933
1874		4,582		179,176
1875		5,061		228,028
1876		5,431		243,171
1877		5,756		253,983

* Government Savings Bank. † Private Savings Bank.

In the above amount of 253,983*l.* are included deposits on account of public funds to the extent of 49,990*l.*, and deposits of the Court of Chancery to the extent of 8,951*l.*

It is an interesting feature in connexion with the savings bank that 418 Coolies are now depositors, the total of their deposits reaching the large amount of 10,080*l.* The satisfactory progress of this institution, which may be taken as some indicator of the general prosperity, still continues to obtain.

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last 10 years is shown below.

	£		£
1868 - -	1,023,866	1872–73 - -	1,733,121
1869 - -	1,224,414	1873–74 - -	1,762,817
1870 - -	1,300,455	1874–75 - -	1,759,942
1870–71 - -	1,331,185	1875–76 - -	1,700,254
1871–72 - -	1,559,602	1876–77 - -	1,552,339

It thus appears that there has been a decrease of 147,915*l.* in the value of the imports as compared with the year immediately preceding, and it will be noticed that the value is also less than that of any of the five preceding years. The dutiable articles which show a decrease are ale, beef, bread, fish, salmon, flour, lard, oils, rice, brandy, tobacco, tongues, pitch pine lumber, and shingles; while an increase appears under fish of different descriptions, salt, soap, manufactured tobacco, wines, white pine lumber, and staves. The collections on bread, flour, meal, and rice alone are 14,020*l.* less than last year, but the Collector-General is of opinion that, as the effects of the hurricane of November 1874 have now entirely passed away, no further reduction will be experienced under these items.

The following table, showing the values of articles imported which were free from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1868.	1869.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	3,046	6,904	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,603	11,485	18,152	15,360	14,735
Mills - -	1,882	3,822	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219	5,803	5,128	1,643
Other machinery	8,023	6,644	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	5,026	11,331	2,536	11,443
Pans for boiling sugar - -	984	2,409	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839	3,649	1,318	2,134
Pipes for fluids -	1,331	1,202	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801	1,830	1,955	3,755
Stills - -	1,174	2,977	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986	6,848	3,153	1,619
Shooks of all sorts	19,479	17,362	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070	20,299	15,845	14,545
Staves - -	6,418	3,847	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207	21,650	11,816	19,503
Wood hoops -	2,773	2,264	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822	2,192	1,609	1,447
Iron, galvanized	1,985	1,902	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339	5,746	4,533	3,259
Iron, other manufactures -	1,174	1,215	1,933	84	56	—	462	—	5	—
Miscellaneous -	2,719	2,004	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	3,559	3,050	3,872	5,651
	50,988	52,552	53,012	63,073	89,031	118,248	78,815	100,550	67,130	79,734

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The principal increase as compared with last year is under the head of other machinery, and is caused by an importation of over 5,000*l.* of machinery for agricultural purposes.

The value of the exports for each of the last 10 years is shown below.

Year	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1867	1,016,554	28,540	1,045,094
1868	1,098,332	40,472	1,138,804
1869	1,052,562	110,207	1,162,769
1870	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080
1874–75	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669

Of the Island products, fruit, coffee, lancewood spars, pimento, and sugar show increases, while ginger, rum, fustic, and logwood are decreases. The great deficiency in the value of fustic and logwood exported as compared with the previous year, amounting to no less than 143,633*l.*, is considered by the Collector-General to have undoubtedly had the effect of depressing trade to a considerable extent, the persons engaged in the cutting, chipping, and carting of the wood being generally of a class which spends money freely. Many spirit and small provision shops in St. Catherine, St. Ann, and Clarendon have been closed in consequence of the withdrawal of the logwood trade from those parishes.

The exports of the principal staples for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:—

Exports.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.
Sugar, hogsheads	36,259	29,268	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398	27,847	29,074	30,569
Rum, puncheons	20,274	15,270	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350	21,359	22,048	20,648
Coffee, lbs. -	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10311427	7,136,307	8,649,049	9,532,887
Pimento, lbs. -	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256	6,440,040	4,474,690	6,760,603
Dyewoods, fustic, and logwood, tons - -	49,129	118,678	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241	84,523	77,229	47,697
Ginger, lbs. -	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492	632,031	599,766	815,659	1,181,789	1,490,845	1,613,764	1,097,863
Arrowroot, lbs. -	27,346	11,731	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636	21,983	21,152	3,514

The statement of the value of the fruit exported is shown below :—

	£
1871–72 - - - -	6,190
1872–73 - - - -	4,750
1873–74 - - - -	10,397
1874–75 - - - -	9,337
1875–76 - - - -	20,526
1876–77 - - - -	22,350

Police.

On the 30th September 1877 the effective strength of the constabulary force, including 164 rural headmen and 298 rural policemen, amounted to 1,060 men, as compared with 1,027 and 982 men at the same period of the years 1876 and 1875 respectively.

The services performed by the constabulary during the 12 months ended on 30th September, as taken from the Inspector-General's report, were as follow :—

Search warrant executed - - -	116
Persons apprehended on warrants - -	1,826
Persons apprehended on information or on view	5,559
Persons summoned - - - -	9,043
Persons subpœnaed - - - -	14,768
Prisoners escorted - - - -	9,959
Revenue seizures - - - -	895
Post-mortems ordered - - -	305

In addition to these services the constabulary attended the courts and markets in their districts, patrolled in the towns and on the highways, and through estates, &c., aided the parochial medical officers in the work of vaccination, and otherwise acted as health and sanitary officers, enforced the conservancy laws and discharged the duties generally of a preventive and detective police. The duties performed by the rural police consisted principally in searching for stolen property, arresting and escorting offenders charged with larceny, and assisting in the maintenance of order in the courts and markets of the rural districts. The number of persons dealt with for all offences during the year 1876–77, including remanets, was 16,937 ; in 1875–76, 18,257 ; and in 1874–75, 16,037. There was, therefore, a decrease of 1,320 in 1876–77 compared with 1875–76, but an increase of 900 compared with 1874–75. The decrease in 1876–77 was in every class of offences, except felonies against the person, which increased from 308 in 1875–76 to 405 in 1876–77. All descriptions of offences against the person and felonies against property showed an increase in the last-named year over 1874–75, but misdemeanors against property showed a decrease of 394.

The miscellaneous offences were 6,141 in 1876–77, 6,518 in 1875–76, and 5,492 in 1874–75. Breaches of the revenue laws numbered 15 more in 1876–77 than in 1874–75, but 19 less than

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the intermediate year. Military and naval offences were considerably less in 1876–77 than in either of the previous years, the numbers being 61 in 1876–77, 94 in 1875–76, and 114 in 1874–75.

The convictions in all the courts during the three years stood thus: in 1874–75, 7,990; in 1875–76, 8,747; and in 1876–77, 8,590. The discharges on preliminary examinations and the acquittals during the same periods were: in 1874–75, 7,477; in 1875–76, 8,901; and in 1876–77, 7,793. The other cases to make up the number of arrests, &c. stood over as remanets. During 1876–77, 9 persons were arrested for murder, 5 for infanticide, and 27 for manslaughter, against 14 for murder, 1 for infanticide, and 20 for manslaughter in 1875–76, and 12 for murder, 1 for infanticide, and 19 for manslaughter in 1874–75; in 1876–77, 3 were convicted of murder, 3 of infanticide, and 7 for manslaughter, and 1 was acquitted of murder and 8 of manslaughter; in 1875–76, 4 were convicted of murder, 1 of infanticide, and 9 of manslaughter, and 4 were acquitted of murder and 11 of manslaughter; and in 1874–75, 3 were convicted of murder, 1 of infanticide, and 5 of manslaughter. The remainder, to make up the number arrested for these offences during each year, were discharged at the magisterial examinations or become remanets for the next year.

The persons arrested and otherwise proceeded against for other offences against the person of a serious character during the three years under notice may thus be classified:—

—	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.
Concealing birth - - -	12	10	3
Soliciting to commit murder - -	—	7	3
Accessory to murder - - -	6	—	—
Attempt to poison - - -	3	9	10
„ drown - - -	—	2	—
Shooting with intent - - -	4	5	9
Cutting and wounding - - -	138	181	274
Assault with intent - - -	16	21	27
Child stealing - - - -	1	2	2
Attempt at suicide - - -	3	4	6
Cruelty to child - - - -	12	8	11
Aggravated assault - - -	64	114	65

The offences of this class that predominated during the three years were cutting and wounding, assault with intent, and aggravated assault, arising no doubt from the continued presence in the community of a number of foreigners who, in their own country, invariably settle their disputes by resorting to the use of lethal weapons.

The felonies against property specially reported to the constabulary in 1876–77 were 148 in excess of those reported in 1874–75, while those in 1875–76 were 503 in excess of those of 1874–75. This shows that crimes of this description had increased during the last two years when compared with the year

last named, although there had been a diminution in 1876–77 compared with 1875–76.

The excess in 1875–76 over the previous and subsequent year was in respect to burglarious larcenies and larcenies of money, goods, &c. The offences under these heads which were specially reported in 1875–76 numbered 1,156, as against 754 in 1874–75 and 823 in 1876–77.

The burglaries and house and shop breakings in Kingston fell from 30 in 1874–75 to 20 in the following year and to 17 in the year 1876–77, although the inducements in the way of shops, &c. being left open had for offences of this kind annually increased. This decrease of burglaries, &c. in the city is to be ascribed to the increased protection given to property at night by the new guard system (the London metropolitan block system), which enabled the Inspector-General of Police to materially increase the number of night beats.

In the rural districts the crime of horse and cattle stealing continues to engage the special attention of the police. These offences greatly increased during the last over the preceding year, the number specially reported in 1876–77 having been 49, whilst the number of those reported in 1875–76 was 37. In 1874–75, 44 cases were reported. The offences to which I shall next refer are predial larcenies, that is, larcenies from provision grounds and homesteads. The cases reported showed an increase in 1876–77 over 1875–76 and 1874–75. The reports in the first-named year were 593; in 1875–76, 456; and in 1874–75, 498. Besides the arrests in the cases of predial larcenies specially reported to the police, other arrests were effected by them in these, as in all other crimes, on the authority of warrants issued by the clerks of petty sessions, at the instance of the complainants themselves. Thus the number of persons proceeded against for predial larceny in 1876–77 stood at 1,482; in 1875–76, 1,998; and in 1874–75, 1,819. It would appear from these figures that while the number of reports to the police in the last statistical year exceeded those of each of the two previous years, the number of cases brought forward for adjudication was far less than in either 1875–76 or 1874–75.

The convictions in 1876–77 in all the courts for predial larceny were 840, as against 1,102 in the previous year and 968 in 1874–75.

The recent law authorising infliction of corporal punishment on a first conviction for the larcenies of growing provisions and plants has already had a good effect.

The mutilation of cattle and horses is an offence against property that has for some time caused serious losses both to the large proprietors and the small settlers. The districts in which this outrage is principally committed are Portland and the Metcalfe Division of St. Mary.

The next class of offences in the criminal returns are those under the head of "Miscellaneous," the greater part of which were summarily disposed of by the justices in petty sessions. The

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number of persons arrested and summoned for abusive and indecent language, vagrancy, gambling, furious riding, careless driving, obstructing thoroughfares, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct in 1874–75 was 4,817, of whom 2,799 were convicted, 1,942 acquitted, and 29 became remanets. The number dealt with for the same offences in 1875–76 was 5,680, the convictions being 3,037, the acquittals 2,531, and the remanets 92. In 1876–77, 5,387 persons were charged with the like offences, and the adjudications were: convicted 3,095, acquitted 2,202, remanets 90. Thus it will be observed that while there was an increase in the number of cases in 1876–77 over those of 1874–75, there was a decrease in the first-named year compared with 1875–76. But the convictions were larger in 1876–77 than in any of the previous years, which is ascribed to the increased knowledge of the sub-officers and men of their powers and duties.

The offences against the constabulary, such as assaulting and resisting them in the execution of their duty, rescuing prisoners, and aiding and abetting, showed an annual decrease. In 1874–75 328 persons were apprehended and summoned for these offences; in 1875–76 the number went down to 313; and 1876–77 to 296. The convictions in 1874–75 were 211, and the acquittals 114; in 1875–76 the convictions were 174, and the acquittals 131; and in 1876–77 the convictions were 187, and the acquittals 103. The remainder had their trials postponed to the following year.

The total number of common assaults brought into the courts during the period under review was 3,957 in 1874–75, resulting in 1,640 convictions, 2,176 acquittals, and 143 remanets; 4,421 in 1875–76, terminating in 1,835 convictions, 2,480 acquittals, and 111 remanets; and 4,057 in 1876–77, ending in 1,659 convictions, 2,287 acquittals, and 111 remanets. In the majority of these cases pecuniary fines were imposed on and paid by the defendants.

The remaining offences to which reference may be made are those under the Contagious Diseases Law. 49 women of ill-fame in Kingston were served with magistrates' orders to attend medical examinations from the 1st October 1874 to the 30th September 1875, and 98 voluntarily submitted to such examination, making 147. Of these, 104 were found by the visiting surgeon to be in health, 27 were sent to the lock hospital, and 16 were not medically examined on account of having left Kingston before the date fixed for their examination. In 1875–76, 205 women were registered whose cases were disposed of thus:—

Voluntarily submitted to medical examination -	82
Served with magistrates' orders for examination -	65
Left the parish to avoid service of orders - -	53
Withdrawal at magisterial inquiry - -	5
Total - - - -	205

Of the women who voluntarily submitted, and on whom orders for attendance on the visiting surgeon were served (147), 92 were

found to be free from disease, 37 were admitted into the lock hospital, and 18 were not medically examined on account of having left Kingston before the day of examination. In the following year (from 1st October 1876 to 30th September 1877), 275 women were registered, of whom 137 voluntarily submitted to medical examination, and 83 were served with orders from a magistrate, 39 eluded the constabulary by leaving the parish, and 16 cases were withdrawn at the magisterial hearing. Of the 220 (137 and 83) who should have appeared before the visiting surgeon, 140 were in health, 46 were sent to the lock hospital, and 34 left Kingston to avoid examination. No cases were reported during the three years from Spanish Town and St. Andrew, the other places to which the operation of the law extends.

The system of photography and registering habitual criminals is still kept up, with great usefulness to the constabulary force.

The "Police Gazette" has also been of good service as a medium of communication between the different detachments, and as an advertising sheet for persons who have lost horse kind or other valuable property.

Prisons.

The following figures show the number of prisoners confined in the various prisons and gaols on the 30th of September of each of the last five years:—

1873	-	-	1,012
1874	-	-	1,003
1875	-	-	1,130
1876	-	-	1,202
1877	-	-	1,259

The cost per diem of dieting the prisoners for the last four years in the gaols and district and short term prisons has been as follows:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
	d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
Middlesex and Surry County Gaol	3·050	3·351	3·193	2·734
St. Catherine's Prison - -	3·198	3·257	3·437	3·348
Falmouth „ - -	3·762	4·060	4·061	4·041
Mandeville „ - -	4·369	3·905	4·034	4·206
Hanover „ - -	3·468	3·834	3·284	2·823
St. Mary's „ - -	3·307	3·880	3·864	2·949
Morant Bay „ - -	4·739	3·892	4·120	3·770
Black River „ - -	3·783	3·068	4·861	3·485
Montego Bay „ - -	3·808	3·855	2·630	2·754
St. Ann's Bay „ - -	3·321	5·238	4·225	4·230
Port Antonio „ - -	3·638	3·673	4·060	3·562

	£	s.	d.
The gross expenditure of the general penitentiaries for the year has been - -	14,612	3	8
The gross expenditure of the gaols and district and short-term prisons has been - -	7,680	16	11
Total - - -	22,293	0	7
The gross earnings from the general penitentiaries and district and short-term prisons have been - - - - -	10,083	2	5
Making the net cost of prisons - -	12,209	18	2

The net cost of each prisoner in all the prisons of the Island was 10*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* for the year.

General Penitentiaries.

A residence has been, as before remarked, built for the Deputy Superintendent at the east wall of the prison, and a range of new cells is in course of construction for the female prisoners (these have since been completed).

The epidemic of pneumonia which visited the penitentiary during the latter portion of the financial year 1875–76 entirely disappeared during the past year.

Considerable additions have been made to the prison library, and there has been no interruption in the system under which the ministers of the several denominations arrange for the holding of Sunday services at the penitentiary, and for the provision of other religious ministrations during the week.

General Remarks.

The general health of the Island has been good; and the results of the long continued state of public peace, of good order, and of security in the community may be traced (through the statistics given as examples below) in the steady increase to the material prosperity of the Island as evinced by the extended area both of cultivated and of grass lands, by the increase in the number of houses (notably in those of the two highest classes) and in the exchangeable value of exports, by the marked increase in the demand for such articles of comfort and convenience as clothing, boots and shoes, furniture, carriages, &c., &c. A comparison also of the value of books imported goes far to show that the intellectual progress of the people has been equally satisfactory.

	1866–67.	1869–70.	1876–77.
*Cultivated land, acres - - -	—	106,365	125,003
*Grass land, acres - - -	—	417,441	448,843
*Houses, number—			
1st class, at 2*s.* tax - -	—	8,806	8,539
2nd class, at 4*s.* tax - -	—	5,170	5,564
3rd class, at 6*s.* tax - -	—	28,761	43,612
Above 6*l.* annual value - - -	—	6,761	8,457
Total houses - - -	—	49,498	66,172
	£	£	£
Value of exports - - -	1,045,093	1,273,163	1,458,669
„ clothing imported - -	5,084	9,311	12,258
„ boots and shoes - -	8,756	16,155	29,839
„ furniture - - -	186	2,240	3,497
„ carriages - - -	946	3,126	3,593
„ books - - - -	624	4,999	9,628
Bank notes in circulation - -	85,219	116,057	143,778

The amount of bank notes in circulation in 1866–67, viz., 85,219*l.*, as compared with that in 1876–77, viz., 143,778*l.*, apart from the increase of specie, which there is no means of estimating with any degree of accuracy, also supports the evidence given by the foregoing statistics of the large increase in the exchangeable value of the products and in the home business of the Island.

The well-assured and continued success which attends such local enterprises as the Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society, the Kingston Benefit Building Society, and the recent successful establishment of others such as the Tramway Company, the Jamaica Fire Insurance Company, the Jamaica Marine Insurance Company, and the projected organisation of other joint stock companies, taken in connexion with the above statistics, point directly to the conclusion that, in spite of the late almost universal depression of trade and commerce, the Island has not only not retrograded, but has found surplus means for investing in new enterprises and for working them successfully.

An Admiralty survey of the coast and ports of the Island has been in course of progress during the year, and much attention has been given by this Government to the buoying of channels and to other matters tending to the improvement of the harbours, which will afford greatly increased facilities to the large number of vessels trading to this Island.

* Tax imposed in 1868.

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The following noteworthy improvements have been effected in the condition of the city of Kingston: the establishment of a public slaughter-house without the limits of the city and the closing of private slaughter yards within it, the opening of gas works and the lighting of the streets with gas, the completion of the waterworks, by which an ample supply of good water is now afforded for domestic use and at high pressure for fire protection purposes. In the country parishes also considerable progress has been made in providing a supply of water in districts subject to droughts of long duration.

The admission of Jamaica into the Postal Union and the institution of a tri-weekly for the former monthly mail service with New York, and the introduction of post cards for use within the Island, mark an appreciable increase in the postal facilities enjoyed by this Colony.

The under-noted particulars show the business done by the Jamaica Railway Company and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

	1876.	1877.
Telegraph.		
Messages received - - - -	2,860	2,178
„ sent - - - - -	2,597	2,105
Railway.		
Passengers - - - - -	141,451	129,467
Horses - - - - - -	493	646
Carriages - - - - -	149	194
Cattle - - - - - -	658	860
Sheep - - - - - -	379	481
Goats - - - - - -	91	63
Pigs - - - - - -	265	390
Bundles, grass, 28 lbs. - - -	442,099	348,154
Bundles, wood, 30 lbs. - - - -	106,460	88,265
Tons, merchandise - - - -	19,279	17,277

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

King's House, March 6, 1879.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-Governor BARLEE, C.M.G., to Governor Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G.

Government House, Belize,
April 5, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, copies in duplicate of the "Blue Book" of this Colony for the year 1878.

Revenue.

2. The estimated revenue for the year was framed in 1877 under the then existing tariff, and amounted from all sources to 42,662*l.*

On the 1st August 1878, a new tariff came into operation, widely differing from that previously in force. It reduced the ad valorem duty on imported goods from 12 to 10 per cent., abolished the excise duty on sugar, placed on the free list the import of animals, Indian corn, &c. &c., thus encouraging trade with Indians and others in occupation of lands on the borders of the Colony, abolished the duty on all materials required for sugar estates, reduced largely the charges on shipping, and in other minor ways by increasing the free list made alterations which were calculated to entail a reduction in revenue of 7,000*l.* per annum. On the other hand, it increased the duties on imported spirits, tobacco, and cigars, and placed an additional excise duty of 1*s.* per gallon on spirits manufactured in the Colony, from which an additional annual revenue of 3,000*l.* was estimated. Thus the Colonists were relieved from that date of taxation to the extent of 4,000*l.* per annum. The total revenue received in 1878 amounted to 40,361*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; if to this sum be added the quota for five months loss of revenue by reduction of taxation at 4,000*l.* a year (1,666*l.*), it will be found that the estimated revenue will have been reached within 400*l.*, and this sum may easily be accounted for by the entry of spirits, &c. at the lower rate in anticipation of a higher tariff.

Expenditure.

3. The estimated expenditure of the year amounted to 49,480*l.*, but actually exceeded that amount by 1,613*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, and may be accounted for by the extra expenditure on public works and buildings, and the increase urgently demanded in the police force as well as the establishment of volunteer corps at Corosal and Belize. The purchase of premises for bonded stores, the construction of buildings absolutely necessary for the purposes of

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post office, printing office, volunteer armoury, &c., entailed an expenditure of 3,500*l.*, and an additional 2,000*l.* were expended for the police and volunteer services. None of these services were contemplated or provided for in the estimates.

There was a corresponding saving of some 3,500*l.* unexpended of the vote for the new court house and public offices carried on to the current year, and the difference between these sums accounts for the excess above the estimated expenditure of the year.

Public Debt.

4. The only debt due by the Colony on 31st December 1878 was 4,510*l.* 16*s.* on debentures due on loans of 1863 and 1864. There are funds in hand to meet these debentures as they become due.

Imperial and Colonial Military Expenditure.

5. The Imperial expenditure for military services amounted to 12,212*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, of which sum 5,000*l.* is provided by the Colony, and in addition to this amount of 5,000*l.* contributed by the Colony for the support of the Imperial troops, 3,831*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* were expended in the construction of a new fort at Corosal, and the repairs of forts at Orange Walk, and a further sum of 883*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* was employed in the formation and equipment of volunteer corps at Corosal and Belize. Thus the Colonial expenditure for military purposes amounted in all to 9,714*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* or within 377*l.* of one fourth of the entire revenue of the Colony.

Volunteer Corps.

6. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the volunteer movement started at Corosal in November 1877, has been carried on steadily and with spirit, and that it was followed in June 1878 by a similar movement at Belize.

There are at the present time two companies at Corosal, numbering of all ranks 120 members, and four companies at Belize numbering 246 members. The drill is carried on with energy and regularity, officers and men are earnest in their work, and I am persuaded, if the same spirit prevails to the end of the current year, and I see no reason to doubt it, I shall be able to report the existence of six efficient companies. Her Majesty's Government have supplied three corps with Snider rifles and accoutrements, and plain but useful uniforms have been provided at Colonial cost.

The fact of this movement, and the earnest way in which it has been carried out, has had its effect for good within and without the Colony.

Public Works.

7. A very large, and indeed almost an undue expenditure has taken place on public works during the past year, but nothing has been expended that has not been actually necessary.

The new lunatic asylum has been completed, and was occupied at the end of the year, it is a creditable building, well suited to the climate and to the wants of the inmates who are, or at all events a large majority of them, probably more comfortably located than they have ever previously been; the buildings in which they were formerly located were utterly unsuited for the purpose, and it was impossible to attempt anything in the shape of discipline or employment. The conduct of the lunatics since their removal to the new quarters has been greatly improved, and they are with few exceptions employed in useful work: washing, gardening, mat and basket making are now common industries among them, and games and amusements of various kinds have been introduced. There is nothing in this establishment that is not now creditable to all persons concerned. The new court house, &c. is in progress, but in consequence of some proposed alterations in its construction has not proceeded so rapidly as I hoped, but I still anticipate its completion within twelve months from this date.

The buildings purchased for bonding warehouses have been thoroughly put in repair, and a large additional store is in course of construction, and plain and suitable buildings have been erected for post and printing offices, and for an armoury for the volunteer force; provision was not made for any of these buildings, but it was impossible to carry on the various services without them, so pressed has the Government been for room in the absence of any public offices save those which are at present seattered all over the town of Belize. Considerable sums have been expended in the repairs of buildings in various parts of the Colony, and I am in a position to report that the majority of public buildings throughout the Colony are now in fair repair.

A new court house, with police station and quarters, has been erected at "Stann Creek," and various small stations have been provided with quarters for police, &c. at small cost.

The streets and bridges in Belize have been brought into decent repair, and a sum of upwards of 1,000*l.* has been expended in the formation of a road from Belize to join at Garbutts Falls the road from Peten. This road will not only facilitate traffic between the western boundary of the Colony, Peten and Belize, but open up much country now almost unoccupied and well fitted for the purpose of stock and cultivation, and I trust that its completion may be reported by or before the end of 1879.

Exploration.

8. An exploring party, of whom Mr. Henry Fowler, the Colonial Secretary, was the leader, started in December from the vicinity of Garbutts Falls, and traversed along the western boundary of the Colony till they came to the "Deep" river, a large stream which flows into the sea at a point some 75 miles south of Belize. Unable to cross this river they had to follow its banks till they reached the sea coast, from whence they procured boats to convey them to Belize.

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The country explored is highly spoken of, and opens a fine field for stock or farming purposes on high lands.

Mahogany and pine trees abound, but of course the distance to the sea precludes the hope of their being made use of till internal communication by railway is available. The party (three Europeans) travelled on foot, and were accompanied by 10 Indians as "carriers." I look upon this expedition as one of importance, and so soon as I receive Mr. Fowler's report will transmit it in a separate Despatch.

Legislation.

9. A large number of Bills was submitted to the Legislative Council in June 1878, and the work done during the session was probably of more importance than that which has been attempted for some years. It is not outside the truth to say that there is hardly a complete copy of the laws of British Honduras in the Colony, and the question of consolidation has been under consideration for some time.

In the present state of the laws it would be unwise to attempt a reprint, and such should not be undertaken till each subject has, so far as may be practicable, been reduced within the compass of one Ordinance, and not distributed as is in many instances the case in numerous Acts and amendments. To this end measures were introduced and passed consolidating within one Ordinance:—

The summary proceedings of justices of the peace; the customs laws; ports, harbour, light, and tonnage dues; sale of liquor and licensing of houses; police discipline and powers; pilots and pilotage; regulation of stills, and suppression of illicit stills; conveyance and postage of letters; regulation of markets and slaughter-houses; regulations in regard to wrecks, casualties, and salvage.

These measures enabled the repeal of a large number of Acts to which reference was at all times difficult, and the adoption of the same principle during one or two succeeding sessions will enable a reprint of the Ordinances in force to be made without difficulty.

Measures were also passed for the establishment of public pounds and the prevention of trespasses by cattle; the regulation of cemeteries; the safe custody of dangerous goods; the abolition of imprisonment for debt; the licensing auctioneers and regulation of sales by auction; the providing a fire brigade, and the protection of life and property from injury by fire.

A new tariff Ordinance, and the usual appropriation Ordinance, with some few other measures of minor importance, completed the work of a session, the result of which, in my opinion, will materially conduce to the moral and commercial welfare of the Colony.

Population.

10. There were registered in the Colony during 1878:—

775 baptisms,
188 marriages,
415 deaths;

but these numbers give no idea of the increase or decrease of population. In the absence of any system of compulsory registration, which would be simply impracticable with the peculiar classes of people scattered throughout the Colony, who could not be made to understand the object or use of registration, it is useless even to guess at the number of persons in the Colony. The returns given are those furnished by clergymen of various denominations located in various towns, and certainly represent but a very small proportion of births and deaths.

Education.

11. There is no change to report in the number of schools supported in part by public funds, and the average attendance returned is much the same as in 1877. The system adopted of holding annual examinations and awarding gratuities to teachers for the number of scholars "passing" in various standards has worked well and caused much emulation among teachers and scholars.

Applications have been made to me for the establishment of schools in various parts of the Colony where nothing in the shape of education has yet been attempted, and I trust, that during the current year, some attempt to meet this want may be made in various centres of population.

Currency.

12. Much difficulty is still experienced in reference to this question, and a general desire and anxiety is evinced for a total revision of the current coin in circulation. The silver in use is below the value at which it passes, and merchants have already expressed their intention to receive various silver coins at some 12½ per cent. below their nominal value. Of English money there is none in circulation, and every gold coin worth exportation has left the Colony, with the exception of the small sum in the Colonial Treasury. No copper coin exists. British Gold or silver brought into the Colony at once commands a premium of 6 to 9 per cent. for exportation, bills can only be purchased at a fabulous price, and at considerable risk to the purchaser. The whole question of the currency in British Honduras being under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, it is probable that alterations may be made before this Despatch reaches its destination.

Imports.

13. There has been a considerable increase in the importation of goods during the past year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1876 they amounted to -	163,403	4	0
„ 1877 „ „ -	167,232	5	4
„ 1878 „ „ -	191,490	12	5

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From the United Kingdom they were during these years as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1876 - - -	99,946	0	0
1877 - - -	84,540	8	0
1878 - - -	110,798	7	8

From the United States they were:—

	£	s.	d.
1876 - - -	51,586	4	0
1877 - - -	69,976	16	0
1878 - - -	70,044	1	2

From the above figures it will appear that there has apparently been a large increase in trade with the United Kingdom, and that the trade with the United States has simply maintained its former ground, but this is by no means the case, for I find on careful examination that the articles imported from the States were invoiced during 1878 at rates from 25 to 75 per cent. lower than they were in 1877, and certainly during the past year the trade with the United States has increased far in excess of that from England, and the prices of provisions and other articles in the Colony have been reduced in proportion. From other countries the value of imports has varied little. It is not improbable that there has been some undue importation of goods which may affect the value of imports during this year.

Exports.

14. The exports have exceeded those of 1877 by 6,503*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* and amount to 131,006*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* I am inclined to think that the amounts of imports and exports are not computed with that care and accuracy which is essential, and I have taken steps to ensure correct data for the current year. I have found it quite impossible to arrive at the value of the contents of cases which pass through this Colony in transit for neighbouring settlements and republics. No value invoices accompany these packages, they are not included in the imports of the Colony, and the persons to whom they are here consigned are paid a certain sum per package for the transhipment of these goods to their destination. These packages are never opened here, and if no vessel is ready to receive them on arrival they are placed in the bonded store till means of shipment are available. Up to 1876 rough guesses were made at the value of these goods and swelled up the exports by some 100,000*l.* per annum; but they are in no way connected with or form part of the trade of this Colony.

Land.

15. The sale and rental of land during 1878 has been little in excess of that of the previous year, but I trust that the proposed alterations in the mode of disposal of Crown lands now under consideration may make some important change in this direction

Recent travels throughout the Colony have more fully impressed me with the large amount of country well adapted for the breeding of stock, and available for the cultivation of sugar, rice, and other commodities. I feel moreover certain that so soon as facilities are opened for the speedy and easy acquirement of Crown lands for rent or purchase on reasonable terms, there will be a considerable demand from persons within the Colony, and from places outside it.

At the present time two sugar estates are turning out crops valued at 10,000*l.* each, and the cultivation of the cane may be indefinitely extended.

Managers of sugar estates in this Colony who have been previously employed on estates in Demerara and elsewhere, express as their opinion, that the soil and climate of Honduras are well suited for sugar cultivation, and that as large returns are made from hence per acre as in any part of the world: I do not hesitate also to endorse opinions by competent persons that the cultivation of rice in this Colony may be engaged in with a certainty of success and to any extent, and it is by the cultivation of these articles and of other produce of a like nature that the future of the Colony must depend; and if these be not fostered I fear the future prosperity of the Colony will be much retarded.

Crime.

16. There is nothing in the criminal statistics of the past year to call for remark. There is a slight excess in the number of prisoners, but this has been mainly due to the extra vigilance of the police force in the detection of crime. No capital conviction occurred during the year.

Hospitals.

17. The number of patients admitted to hospital during 1878 was less than in 1877, and the number of deaths less by nine.

A good deal of mild fever and sickness prevailed during the months from August to November, but no serious epidemic prevailed during that time or any portion of the year. Every precaution was adopted to prevent the introduction of yellow fever from New Orleans, St. Thomas, and Jamaica, and generally those precautions were successful. One case of supposed yellow fever in the person of an army surgeon who had passed a day or two in Jamaica en route to this Colony developed itself a few days after arrival, and the patient died at Corosal, but no recurrence of the disease appeared.

Two distinct cases appeared in the persons of seamen from a vessel which had been 20 days from St. Thomas and to which pratique was granted, there being no sickness on board when she arrived. The men were treated as out-patients for some time but continuing in a weakly state were taken into hospital. Two days after they were prostrate with decided yellow fever to which they succumbed.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The precautions adopted prevented any spread of the disease. There can be little doubt that the disease was generated at St. Thomas and had been "nursed" in the ship, the filthy state of which was beyond description. It was only by the exercise of stringent measures that the master was induced to clean and fumigate his vessel and move her to the quarantine ground.

Indian Raids.

18. During the year 1878 the Colony was little troubled with reports of disaffection among the Indian tribes or of alarms as to attacks from them. I feel certain that a strong feeling of confidence now exists on the part of the Indians towards the Government of the Colony, and that they recognise the certainty of good treatment so long as they adhere to the regulations under which they are encouraged to visit the Settlement for purposes of trade or barter. And the general principles laid down for the guidance of Colonists in their dealings with the Indians have also not been without effect for good. So far as the Indians are personally concerned, I have little fear of any desire on their part to break regulations, unless in retaliation for bad treatment, but disaffected persons in power among them can compel them to take steps which they would not otherwise dream of doing, and hence the necessity of continual care and vigilance on the frontier posts.

Reports of disturbances having arisen between the Santa Cruz and Locha tribes and the Government of Yucatan have lately been promulgated, and I hear of three detachments to the number of 2,000 each being sent to attack towns in Yucatan, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these reports.

19. I may in conclusion venture to express a hope that the returns comprising the "Blue Book" of 1878 contain more reliable information and have been compiled with greater regard to accuracy than those which I had the honour to forward for the year 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency Sir
Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.
Governor of Jamaica.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

Governor MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G. to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, King's House, March 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1878, accompanied by the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1878.

Taxation.

In the year 1878 no alteration was made under this heading, and notwithstanding that it was the first entire year in which the additional 25 per cent. on import duties was taken off the receipts from that source amounted to within 153*l.* of the year 1877, when 374*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* was collected by that additional tax, and within 480*l.* of the year 1876 when 704*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* was so collected.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - -	6,594	14	0
1877 - - -	6,298	16	8
Increase for 1878 -	295	17	4

RECEIPTS of REVENUE for the last Four Years.

1875.			1876.			1877.			1878.		
£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
7,722	13	7	8,596	9	2	6,298	16	8	6,594	14	0

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

The increase of revenue for 1878 over 1877 is due principally to the higher market value of salt, which caused the royalty on ad valorem to bring in 304*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* more. The other items vary but little from year to year, and are dependent upon the salt crop. When the salt rakings are large the import duties increase, because the labourers are earning and spending more money.

Below will be found a schedule of receipts of the revenue for the years 1877 and 1878.

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the year 1878, in comparison with the preceding year 1877.

Imports.

	1877.			1878.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Alcohol	5	13	0	3	6	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	14	3	5	16	18	2
Asses	—			1	0	0
Bay water	4	0	0	6	8	9
Beans and peas	6	16	7	4	16	0
Bread	25	16	1	25	4	0
Butter	46	7	11	37	17	5
Candles	7	16	8	7	2	0
Cattle and calves	1	11	3	5	8	3
Cheese	14	0	11	13	10	2
Chocolate	6	8	9	3	6	9
Cigars	3	7	2	9	15	11
Cocoa	0	8	4	0	3	9
Coffee	13	9	10	12	10	5
Cordage	4	7	1	2	14	0
Cordials	2	5	0	2	17	6
Corn	19	18	5	12	19	11
Fish, dried and pickled	24	5	4	41	10	0
Flour wheat	347	9	9	452	16	6
Flour rye and corn meal	61	0	3	60	4	6
Horses	—			2	0	0
Lard	41	19	6	85	1	10
Lumber and shingles	28	16	2	51	11	11
Meat, salted or cured	110	8	8	155	3	1
Molasses, syrup and honey	54	10	11	86	8	4
Oils	20	18	7	74	14	1
Paint in oil	3	12	0	6	8	8
Pitch, tar, and rosin	2	6	0	1	5	6
Raisins, currants, and figs	2	11	9	5	9	3
Rice	65	0	7	42	4	6
Rum, brandy, gin, &c.	529	10	11	605	0	9
Sheeps and goats	0	11	0	1	4	0
Soap	27	9	5	27	1	1
Spirits of turpentine	0	1	0	0	2	6
Sugar	180	2	6	178	15	5
Swine	0	7	4	0	16	1
Tea	21	10	6	21	10	8
Tobacco	45	1	10	38	7	5
Wine	35	18	2	41	19	11
Ad valorem duties	744	15	11	600	8	1
25 per cent. on amount of duties to 11th August 1877	374	19	6	—		
Total	2,899	18	0	2,746	3	1

Other Sources of Revenue.

—	1877.			1878.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported in 1877, 1,053,507 bushels; in 1878, 1,049,158 bushels	1,880	18	3	2,185	14	11
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on cave earth guano	26	12	0	160	2	0
Light duties	547	18	4	588	8	8
Auction duties	121	7	9	77	12	5
Fines from Police and Supreme Courts	43	17	6	33	4	0
Fees of office	109	14	4	99	4	11
Postage	41	14	3	39	4	2
Post Office Money Order Commissions	12	4	3	17	9	6
Postage stamps sold abroad	21	8	5	2	3	6
Liquor licenses	100	0	0	125	0	0
Wine licenses	72	10	0	58	0	0
Dog tax	13	2	6	11	6	6
Seizures	—			0	14	1
Derelict property	1	7	7	8	11	5
Sales of water from Government tank	1	6	6	0	12	5
Sales of Crown lands	21	19	8	14	0	9
Lease of land	3	0	0	3	0	0
Sales of Government property	2	8	0	8	0	0
Public Bank, profits from 1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878	47	9	4	55	12	0
Interest for one year on 500*l.* on account of late postmaster	30	0	0	30	0	0
Receipt from General Post Office	300	0	0	300	0	0
Lease of Salina at Cockbourn Harbour	—			20	0	0
Refund of over-payment Widows and Orphans Fund	—			10	9	8
Total	3,398	18	8	3,848	10	11

Recapitulation.

—	1877.			1878.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports	2,899	18	0	2,746	3	1
Other sources of revenue	3,398	18	8	3,848	10	11
	6,298	16	8	6,594	14	0
Balance from 1876 and 1877	1,978	4	6	1,971	17	11
	8,277	1	2	8,566	11	11
Expenditure for 1877 and 1878	6,305	3	3	6,339	19	9
Balance for 1878 and 1879	1,971	17	11	2,226	12	2

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878	6,339	19	9
1877	6,305	3	3
Increase 1878	34	16	6

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Of this sum 33*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* is an advance to the salt pond proprietors at Salt Bay to enable them to carry out some work on the reservoir there. It will be repaid during the current year, so that really the expenditure of 1878 was within 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* of that of the previous year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The revenue of 1878 amounted to -	6,594	14	0
Surplus balance from 1877 - -	1,971	17	11
	8,566	11	11
Expenditure in 1878 - - -	6,339	19	9
Credit balance January 1, 1879 - -	2,226	12	2

Value of Imports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - -	19,368	9	6
1877 - - -	21,790	2	6
Less in 1878 - -	2,421	13	0

Of these imports 2,041*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* were from the United Kingdom, 814*l.* 11*s.* from British Colonies, and 16,912*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* from foreign countries in which latter figures 13,117*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* is set down to the United States of America, and 2,186*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* to the Danish Island of St. Thomas.

Value of Exports.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - -	26,909	14	11
1877 - - -	22,185	0	6
Increase in 1878 -	4,724	14	5

of which exports 17,007*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* went to the United States, and 6,312*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* to British North America.

COMPARATIVE VALUE of PRINCIPAL EXPORTS the Produce of the Colony.

	1878.			1877.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salt course - - - - -	17,657	4	3	18,557	10	9
Salt ground - - - - -	5,277	9	7	2,377	7	10
Cave earth - - - - -	2,777	4	0	260	8	4
Sponges - - - - - -	300	2	6	45	0	0
Palmetto straw - - - - -	124	0	0	178	10	0
Dye wood - - - - -	58	16	0	1	12	0
Asses - - - - - -	81	0	0	105	19	8
Total - - - -	26,275	16	4	21,516	8	7

The increase in ground salt, sponge, and cave earth is considerable, and although the latter cannot be expected to last, yet the two former ought to, and I believe will.

Shipping.

Year.	No. of Sailing Vessels entered.	Tons.	Steam Vessels entered.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tons.
1878 - -	335	36,097	15	11,958	350	48,055
1877 - -	326	33,041	18	13,794	344	46,790

Public Works.

The total expenditure on works of 271*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* was 20*l.* in excess of the annual vote, which has been fixed at 250*l.* since the annexation of this Settlement to Jamaica.

The principal charges were incurred in repairing the keeper's dwelling at the lighthouse, 74*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* Mooring and painting buoys at Cockburn Harbour, 25*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, and 124*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* spent on roads and carting stones to the gaol for the prisoners to break.

Legislation.

There were only two Ordinances submitted to the Legislative Board during the year. One, the annual Appropriation Ordinance, and the other to make further provision for the collection of the revenue, which latter was not assented to by the Governor of Jamaica.

Population.

The estimated population at the end of the year 1877 was 5,235. The registered births and deaths during 1878 have been as follows: 182 births and 80 deaths, which would therefore give a total population on December 31, 1878, of 5,337.

I am afraid, however, that this is rather more than the actual number, as a great many of the people, when the salt raking is finished, and there is little or no employment here, go to St. Domingo, which is only 90 miles off, where, if they do not die, they gain higher wages than here, and so are tempted to remain.

The number of marriages in 1878 was 34 against 22 in the previous year.

Ecclesiastical Return.

The church, which was disestablished in 1873 by Ordinance No. 5, has never been directed by the Bishop of Nassau, in whose diocese it is, as to what steps were to be taken to establish a local committee or synod. Consequently with no settled system, there is great difficulty in collecting any means to support a clergyman. It is hoped that something will be done soon by the Bishop

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recently appointed in the place of Bishop Venables who died in 1877.

There is one clergyman of the Church of England, and a Wesleyan minister at Grand Turk, no clergyman of any denomination on the Caicos Islands, and a pensioned clergyman of the Church of England resident at Salt Bay. At the time of my writing this report (January 29) all of these ministers are absent. Two on business, and the pensioned officer has gone for change of air to Bermuda.

Education.

The public school at Grand Turk is managed by a master who receives a salary and gratuity of 75*l.* per annum, with fees of 3*d.* a scholar per week paid by the parents. The number of pupils on the register was 166, the average attendance only 75. I am afraid the schools at the other Settlements are very inferior, and in a very unsatisfactory condition, there being great difficulty in getting competent teachers.

The Education Ordinance (No. 6 of 1872) allowed in the first instance 200*l.* per annum to be spent on education, but provided that 200*l.* per annum additional might be spent when the financial condition of the Colony improved. This, I hope, is now the case, and additional expenditure in this cause is absolutely necessary.

Legislative Board.

Mr. D. T. Smith, Commissioner and President of the Board, was suspended from his office as Commissioner on the 16th October, and Mr. R. B. Llewelyn appointed as president provisionally until Her Majesty's pleasure be known.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. D. T. Smith, Commissioner, Receiver-General, &c., was suspended from office on the 16th October, when Mr. E. N. Walker, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, who had accompanied Sir A. Musgrave, K.C.M.G., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief to this Settlement, was appointed to act temporarily as Commissioner. Mr. R. B. Llewelyn arrived from Jamaica on 28th October, and assumed the duties of Commissioner. The chief constable, Mr. H. W. Whitney, died on the 2nd March, and his place has not been filled up as it is in comtemplation to put the police force on a different footing and abolish the office of chief constable. Mr. James Hyatt, the head lighthouse keeper, resigned on the 30th September, and his place has not been filled up as it is considered that two keepers are sufficient.

Pensions.

One of the children pensioned from Widows and Orphans Pension Fund obtained his majority during the year, and reduced the pension list by 22*l.* 4*s.* per annum, which now stands at 616*l.* 16*s.*

Gaols and Prisoners.

—	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
The number of offences reported to the police	216	206	160	157
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates.	216	206	168	151
Number of summary convictions:				
1. For offences against the person -	56	50	30	38
2. For praedial larceny - -	—	4	1	—
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	21	16	10	8
4. For other offences - - -	72	75	66	68
Number of convictions in the Supreme Court:				
1. For offences against the person -	2	—	1	1
2. For praedial larceny - -	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than praedial larceny.	2	—	10	3
4. For other offences - - -	—	—	1	5
The number of persons acquitted :				
1. In the inferior court - -	63	60	46	27
2. In the superior court - -	3	3	6	4

General Remarks.

The year 1878 was not a very bright one for the salt pond proprietors, as the crop was smaller even than in 1877. The prices, however, were higher, and the year closed better than anticipated.

I believe and hope that brighter times are in store, the chances are in favour of a fine season for salt raking, and with the several changes contemplated in the management of public affairs, I shall be very disappointed if I am not able to send a more favourable report next year.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Commissioner.

6th February 1879.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 4.

Lieutenant-Governor YOUNG, to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
August 22, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith the Blue Book of the Colony of British Guiana for the year 1878, accompanied by the customary abstract report of its contents, which has been compiled by Mr. Melville, the Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

2. I entertained the hope that I should have been in a position to forward this Blue Book at a much earlier period, but a

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disastrous fire which occurred in Georgetown in March last, destroyed a portion of the office in which the book was being printed, and the work was greatly retarded; indeed the revised sheets, and the types narrowly escaped total destruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the COLONY of BRITISH GUIANA for the Year 1878.

Finances.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1878 amounted to 409,259*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, being an increase as compared with the amount collected in the year 1877 of 19,387*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* This increase is almost entirely owing to the greatly increased importations. The increase on import duties alone being 19,827*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* There is an increase on all other duties and licenses except wines and spirits, and a decrease on fees of office, taxes, miscellaneous receipts, amounts recoverable, fines and seizures, interest, and establishments under Government amounting to the sum of 8,829*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* The total increase of revenue is 28,217*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, of which amount the sum of 6,000*l.* is on retail spirit licenses and rum duties. To show the steadily growing financial prosperity of the Colony, the revenue in 1868 was 290,881*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* as compared with 409,259*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in 1878, or a yearly increase of about 12,000*l.*

2. The expenditure of the year 1878 amounted to 417,995*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.*, which is in excess of the expenditure of 1877 by 37,430*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* The chief items showing an excess in the expenditure are immigration, 22,176*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; works and buildings, 14,048*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; roads and bridges, 2,225*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; prisons, 1,724*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.*; hospitals, 1,459*l.* 5*s.* 8½*d.*; and poor, 1,157*l.* 10*s.* 9½*d.* The large increase in the item immigration is to be accounted for by the fact that while in 1877 there were imported into the Colony from Calcutta, Barbados, and Madeira 5,538 immigrants, the figures in 1878 give a total of 10,776. In 1877, of these immigrants, 4,403 were from Calcutta, and in 1878, 9,101.

3. The total receipts available in the Colonial Treasury in 1878 amounted to the sum of 632,161*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, which included the revenue collected in 1878, the deposits, repayments, and other special receipts, and the planters' contribution to the immigration fund, and also the balance of 112,363*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* remaining in the Treasury at the end of 1877. The total payments, including the general expenditure, repayment of deposits, specia.

payments, and the planters' share of immigration, amounted to 491,756*l.* 2*s.*, leaving a balance carried to the year 1879 of 140,405*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*, of which balance the sum of 30,572*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.* is available for the general service of the Colony, the remainder being required for services performed, but not liquidated, and to meet the payment of deposits and other special objects.

Local Revenues.

4. The local revenues of the Mayor and Town Council of the city of Georgetown for the year 1878 amounted to the sum of 38,078*l.* 18*s.* 5½*d.*, and the expenditure to 38,609*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* The revenue receipts of the board of superintendence of the town of New Amsterdam were 4,766*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* as against the expenditure of 3,840*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.* The incorporated villages of the Colony show a revenue of 7,705*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and an expenditure of 4,892*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; but their liabilities amount to the sum of 26,028*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*, of which 25,453*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* are due on Government loans. The total of the local revenues of the Colony for 1878 is 50,551*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*, and of the expenditure 47,343*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* as compared with 48,290*l.* 6*s.* and 47,027*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* of the previous year.

Public Debt.

5. The amount of the public debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1878 was 19,243*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

6. In addition to the above amount there are the following debts guaranteed by the general revenue of the Colony, and for which there is ample security, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For immigration purposes, secured on sugar estates, by notes given for indenture fees -	172,700	0	0
Raised for the Mayor and Town Council of the city of Georgetown, for which the municipal revenues are pledged - -	52,651	13	4
Raised for the Corporation of the town of New Amsterdam - - - -	5,694	8	10
These loans, together with the public debt, give a grand total of - -	250,289	8	10

Public Works.

7. The total amount expended in 1878 upon public works, civil roads, canals, bridges, sewage and sanitary works, sea defences, &c., was 97,876*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* as compared with 47,466*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.* in 1877. The expenditure for the county of Demerara was 53,081*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*; for the county of Essequebo, 15,722*l.* 5*s.* 5½*d.*; for the county of Berbice, 13,649*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d*; and under the head of miscellaneous, 15,422*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* The largest items of expenditure were, in the county of Demerara, Colonial Hospital, 1,386*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*; Leper Asylum, Mahaica, 1,401*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.*; sea wall and dam, 6,112*l.* 12*s.* 8*d*; groyne at Best, 5,903*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.*; and sanitary works in Georgetown, 3,696*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*

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In the county of Essequebo, Her Majesty's Penal Settlement, Turnkey's Quarters, 1,111*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; Suddie Prison, 1,206*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; police stations at Anna Regina, 1,601*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*; and Suddie station and hospital, 1,235*l.*; Stellings, at Maryville, and Belfield, Lequan, and at Tuschen de Vrienden, 4,266*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*; and reformatory and industrial school Ouderneeming, 2,562*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*

In the county of Berbice, bonded warehouse New Amsterdam, 2,640*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*; Magistrate's Court Room, Telegraph and Public Works Offices, 1,373*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.*, and East Coast Canals 3,428*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.*

Under the head of miscellaneous, foremen and overseers, &c. of Public Works Department, 2,083*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.*; maintenance of local telegraph and purchase of line to Berbice, 3,020*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*; and constructing public tanks, 7,332*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.*

Legislation.

8. Ten laws were passed in the year 1878.

9. The only Ordinance enacted of any special importance is No. VIII., "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law "relating to the Public Health in British Guiana."

Court of Policy.

10. Mr. H. T. Garnett at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court vacated his seat and was re-elected a member of the Court of Policy.

Mr. A. C. McCalman was elected in the room of the Honourable C. L. Bascom, who resigned his seat on leaving the Colony.

Combined Court.

11. Mr. D. C. Cameron, junr., was elected to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. D. Elliott, on the 5th October 1878. Mr. John Moore was elected in the room of Mr. Samuel Booker, who resigned on leaving the Colony. Mr. William Craigen and Mr. Edward Stephens were re-elected on the expiry of their terms of service; and Mr. W. F. Bridges, was elected in the room of Mr. H. K. Davson, who resigned on leaving the Colony.

College of Electors.

12. Mr. E. T. Henery was elected to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. G. L. Davson, on leaving the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

13. Several changes took place in the staff during the year 1878 owing to the deaths of the following 13 officers: Mr. George Schrack, clerk, Administrator-General's Office, January 21st; Mr. G. E. Tennent, clerk, Administrator-General's Office, February 6th; Dr. Coffey, Supernumerary Medical Officer, February 11th; Sir William Snagg, Chief Justice, April 17th; Mr. J. H. Otterbein, Provost Marshal, April 20th; Mr. Henry

Walpole, Sub-Immigration Agent, May 1st; Mr. John Melville, Deputy Postmaster, New Amsterdam, May 3rd; Mr, Horace Manthorpe, Inspector of Police, June 6th; Dr. T. M. Clark, Assistant Resident Surgeon, Colonial Hospital, August 24th; Mr. P. Nicholson, clerk in the Administrator-General's Office, September 21st; Mr. A. C. Brown, clerk in the Receiver-General's Office, October 14th; Mr. P. Benson Maxwell, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, Sheriff of Berbice, October 18th; and Mr. W. B. Pollard, Auditor-General, December 9th.

14. Among the new appointments and promotions were those of Mr. E. J. Eagles, formerly Auditor-General of Trinidad, who succeeded Major Mitchell, appointed Colonial Secretary of Natal; of Captain Murdoch McLeod, who succeeded Mr. Otterbein as Provost Marshal; and of Sir David P. Chalmers, in succession to Sir William Snagg, as Chief Justice. Sir David P. Chalmers was appointed in 1878 but did not assume the duties of his office until January 1879. Mr. F. Griffin, Inspector of Police, was appointed to the vacant Sub-Immigration Agency, caused by the death of Mr. Walpole. Mr. Evelyn was appointed to succeed Mr. John Melville, and Dr. E. G. Leary in the room of Dr. Clark, as Assistant Resident Surgeon, Colonial Hospital. Mr. A. H. Bartley and Mr. H. Woodward were appointed Assistant Inspectors of Schools and Educational District Officers. Mr. H. P. Plummer, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, was provisionally appointed Sheriff of Berbice, in succession to Mr. Maxwell. Captain Fortescue was appointed Superintendent of Her Majesty's Penal Settlement, Massaruni, in the room of Mr. Sealy who resigned, and the Reverend H. T. S. Castell was appointed Incumbent of St. Philip's Church in succession to the Reverend N. A. Wells, who resigned. Mr. C. P. Austin was provisionally appointed to succeed Mr. Pollard as Auditor-General; Mr. George Melville to succeed Mr. Austin as Assistant Government Secretary, and Mr. F. W. Collier to succeed Mr. Melville.

Pensions.

15. The Reverend J. McGuffie, Minister of St. Saviour's Parish, retired on Pension in 1878, and Mr. J. D. Fraser, formerly Provost-Marshal, drew his pension which ante-dates from the 26th October 1877. Two officers holding minor appointments in the prison service and post office also retired on pension.

Population.

16. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1878 was 232,636, which includes 10,776 the number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony during the year, deducting 1,071 the number of immigrants who returned to India, and 7,296 the number of deaths recorded. The population, as compared with that of 1877, shows an increase of 3,756, and compared with that of 1871 (193,491) an increase of 39,145. The number of deaths, as shown above, registered in 1878 was 7,296 and the number of births 7,940.

BRITISH GUIANA.

17. The condition of the people during the past year has exhibited no marked change. The deposits in the Savings Banks still continue to increase, although the excess in 1878 over 1877 is not so great as it was between 1877 and 1876. The number of depositors has decreased by 30, while the amount of the deposits has increased by 91*l.* 8*s.* 9½*d.*, the figures being,—

Depositors in 1878 - - -	7,733
„ „ 1877 - - -	7,763

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Deposits in 1878 - -	148,608	4	10½
„ „ 1877 - -	148,516	16	1

The amount in money deposited for remittance by the immigrants who returned to India in 1878 was 16,852*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the jewellery carried away by them was estimated at the sum of 3,500*l.* as compared with the sum of 1,000*l.* in 1877.

Education.

18. The list of schools in the Colony now receiving Government aid includes eight mission schools which are allowed special grants, and the total number inspected in 1878 was 163. Of the inspected schools only 99 satisfied the requirements of the regulations in regard to average attendance and per-centage of passes, and received grants accordingly, and 14 schools which were not inspected received provisional grants. The average attendance for the 12 months previous to the examination was 9,186. The total number of children who were in attendance on the days of inspection was 13,544, of whom 8,244 were presented for examination. The returns for 1878 show that the great bane of elementary education, irregularity of attendance, is experienced even in Georgetown, where there are two educational district officers. There were in 1878 72 teachers in charge of schools who hold certificates of competency from the Board of Education.

Trade.

19. The imports of the Colony in 1878 were valued at 2,150,714*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* showing a decrease in value as compared with those of 1877 of 79,293*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

20. The decrease is occasioned by the lower market prices prevailing during the year. In some cases the quantities of articles imported exceed those of the preceding year, while the value shown is less in amount. There was, however, a decrease in quantity and value in the article of dried fish alone amounting to over 26,000*l.*, and in lumber to 36,000*l.*, but on the other hand there was an increase in quantity of over 36,000 barrels of flour, the increase in value being 43,000*l.*, as against the value of the flour imported in 1877.

21. The value of the exports in 1878 was 2,507,571*l.* 14*s.* 0½*d.*, and in 1877 3,049,157*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, showing a decrease of 531,585*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* This decrease is entirely owing to the large falling off in the exportation of Colonial sugar, the result not of any abandonment

of the industry but of falling off of the crops occasioned by two long periods of severe drought; the number of hogsheads exported in 1877 being 111,157 as compared with 86,076 in 1878.

22. The shipping returns show a decrease in the number of vessels entered during the year 1878 of 56 as compared with the number which entered in 1877, but an increase in the tonnage of 20,556 tons. The number of vessels which cleared during the year 1878 was 1,039 as compared with 1,061 in the year 1877, and an increase in the tonnage of 14,439 tons.

Agriculture.

23. Under this head there are shown 119 sugar estates in cultivation as compared with 118 in 1877; 87 cattle farms as compared with 80 in the previous year, and 10 cocoa-nut estates in 1878 as compared with nine in 1877.

24. The expenditure during the year on account of wages for labour on sugar estates is believed, so far as information can be obtained, to have varied but little from the preceding year, and the average rate of wages for tradesmen and for domestic servants in town and country remains unaltered, but in respect of labour on the sugar estates, the prices paid for various descriptions of work have been reduced in a small degree, thus requiring the labourer to work longer to earn the same amount of money, a state of things that cannot injuriously affect the Creole labourer, when as a rule he has contented himself with the earnings of three days' labour in the week to supply all his wants, devoting himself for the rest of the week to a life of idleness.

25. The prices of the following articles of produce were in 1878, vacuum pan sugar from 20*s.* to 22*s.* per cwt.; Muscovado, 12*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* per cwt.; vacuum pan molasses, 5*d.* to 6*d.* per gallon; Muscovado, 10*d.* to 1*s.* per gallon; and cocoa-nuts 3*l.* 10*s.* per 1,000; and Wallaba shingles, 19*s.* per 1,000 feet. The prices of timber and charcoal remain unaltered.

There is a decrease shown in the prices of vacuum pan sugar of 3*s.* 8*d.* per cwt.; of Muscovado sugar of 7*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.; of vacuum pan molasses of 4*d.* per gallon; of Muscovado molasses of 2*d.* per gallon; of cocoa-nuts of 5*s.* per 1,000; and of Wallaba shingles of 9½*d.* per 1,000 feet. There are decreases shown in the average prices of wheaten flour per barrel, horned cattle, horses, and mules.

Criminal Statistics.

26. The total number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1878 was 18,066, as compared with 17,010 in the year 1877, showing an increase in the number of offenders of 1,048. The number of persons apprehended in 1878 was 31,844, and in 1877, 33,047. The number of summary convictions in 1878 was 15,731, showing a large decrease of 2,319 as compared with the number 18,130 in 1877, and a still larger decrease of 7,032 as compared with the year 1875. There has

BRITISH GUIANA.

likewise been a decrease in the number of convictions in the superior courts during the year 1878. The convictions in 1878 being 284, and the year 1877 showing a total of 301. In the number of convictions under the Immigration and Labour Laws there has again been a large decrease. The number of convictions in 1878 was 3,051 as compared with 4,002 in 1877, and with 6,341 in 1876.

27. The total number of persons tried in the superior courts was 438 in 1878, as compared with 469 in the previous year. Of the 438 persons tried in 1878, 284 were convicted, 113 were acquitted, in two cases the prisoners were found insane, and 39 cases fell through for want of prosecution. There were six trials for murder in 1878, two of which ended in conviction, one was acquitted, one was found insane, and two fell through for want of prosecution. As compared with 1877 there were two additional cases of murder, but a decrease of 10 in the number as compared with the years 1875 and 1876.

Gaols and Prisoners.

28. The total number of prisoners committed to the several prisons of the Colony in 1878 was 8,087, as compared with 8,146 in 1877, and 8,370 in 1876.

29. At the penal settlement the newly appointed superintendent, Captain Fortescue, has initiated many improvements, and as regards its sanitary condition and the discipline maintained the Inspector of Prisons reports that this prison was never in better order. There were at the penal settlement on 31st December 1878, 214 convicts and 72 ordinary prisoners, and the amount earned by these prisoners during the year was 5,056*l.* 13*s.* The number of prisoners in the Georgetown Prison on the same date was 334.

Hospitals and Asylums.

30. The total number of patients in the Colonial Hospital of Demerara and Essequebo, including the seamen's ward, at the beginning of 1878 was 315, as compared with 453 at the same date in 1877. The total number admitted during the year was 5,827 as compared with 5,564 in 1877, and the average daily number of in-patients was 401, as compared with 455 in 1877. The total number of deaths was 659, being a decrease of 105 as compared with 1877. Of the deaths, 85 cases were taken to the hospital in a moribund condition, and deducting these the mortality was at the rate of 98 per 1,000, as compared with 112 per 1,000 in 1877. The number of seamen who entered the port of Georgetown during the year 1878 was 10,982, of these 455 were admitted into the Seaman's Hospital, out of whom only four died.

31. The returns of the Colonial Hospital at Berbice show the number of patients in hospital at the beginning of the year to be 65. The number of admissions during the year 1878 was 1,231 as compared with 1,277 in 1877. The daily average during the year 1878 was 83 as compared with 68 in 1877. The deaths in

1878 show an increase of 26, as compared with 1877, the figures being 220 and 194. Of the number of deaths 220, there were 60 moribund cases on admission, and, deducting these, the mortality was at the rate of 121 per 1,000, while in 1877 it was at the rate of 101 per 1,000.

32. The statistics of the lunatic asylum show that the total number of persons admitted during the year 1878 was 96 as compared with 110 in the previous year. There were 248 patients in the asylum at the commencement of the year. The daily average was 258. The number cured or relieved and discharged 19, and the number of deaths 59, leaving 266 persons in the asylum at the close of the year.

33. As the disease of leprosy is one of especial interest in the Colony at the present time, a return has been added to the Blue book, giving the statistics of the General Leper Asylum at Mahaica. This return shows that there were remaining in the asylum at 31st December 1877, 199 patients. There were admitted during the year 62, and deducting one absent on leave, 18 who absconded, 24 who died, and 12 who were sent to India, there remained in the asylum at the close of the year 1878, 206.

34. In the Karw Island Leper Asylum, which is under the care of the surgeon of the penal settlement, there were 48 inmates at the close of the year 1878.

35. There were, therefore, in the two asylums 254 inmates as compared with 243 at the close of the year 1877.

Charitable Institutions.

36. With the exception of the Saffon School, which is endowed by private property left in trust, all the charitable institutions of the Colony are supported out of the general revenue. The cost of these institutions in 1878 was 40,761*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* as compared with 39,336*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* in 1877.

37. The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society in Georgetown had, at 31st December 1878, 369 members as compared with 343 at the same date in 1877, and the Berbice Reading Society in New Amsterdam shows a decrease of 23 in the number of its members.

38. In conclusion, it must be remarked from the foregoing statistics that notwithstanding the severe drought which was experienced during part of the year 1878, and which affected to a great extent the exportation of sugar, a marked improvement is shown in the financial state of the Colony and in the sanitary condition of the people.

(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
Georgetown, Demerara, July 31, 1879.

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No. 5.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Nassau,
February 28, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book for 1878, which will be forwarded to you as soon as it is completed.

Taxes and Finance.

2. The liabilities on the 1st January 1878 were 4,743*l.*, being the amount of deficits inherited from previous years; but there were indications at the end of 1877 that led me at the opening of the Colonial Parliament on the 12th February 1878 to anticipate that in the course of the year those liabilities would be materially reduced.

3. I am most happy to report that on the 31st December the liabilities above referred to were wiped off altogether, two debentures of 100*l.* each were redeemed, and a small balance remained in hand towards the expenses of the present year.

4. The scope of the Stamp Act of 1877 was slightly extended in 1878 by the addition of the following rates:—

On every promissory note - - -	1*d.*
On each export entry - - - -	1*d.*
On each import entry direct or ex-warehouse -	1*d.*
On each clearance - - - -	6*d.*

It was also decided to repeal the fluctuating stamp duty imposed on drafts and checks for the payment of money drawn on the Public Bank, and to impose one uniform duty of 1*d.* on every draft irrespective of its value. The Legislature readily adopted these proposals.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The revenue for 1878 was 41,518*l.* The expenditure was 41,253*l.* In the latter sum is included the payment of the deficit with which the year opened, as well as the sum of 200*l.* for debentures redeemed.

6. The ordinary expenditure of 1878, that is, the cost of all the services from the 1st January to the 31st December, was 36,241*l.* I had, after personal examination of the Receiver-General's books, estimated that it would be 36,500*l.* There was, therefore, an actual surplus on the year's transactions of nearly 5,300*l.* After a search through the records of my office, I cannot find any such occurrence since 1865; in fact, with the exception of one year in which a fictitious balance was obtained by a clearance of the

warehouses of all spirits on account of an impending increase in those duties, the salaries of public officers have, for the last 10 or 12 years been in arrear for periods of from one to six months.

7. Savings in the expenditure have been effected by the efficient and economical administration of the gaol, asylum, and the police departments. In 1874 the two former establishments cost 4,286*l.* Now they cost 2,915*l.*, and there has been little or no variation in the number of their inmates. In 1874 the police cost over 2,500*l.*, whereas now the force is maintained for 2,000*l.* There were, in addition, several appointments which were amalgamated or reduced by the Government outside of those affected by the Retrenchment Act of 1869.

8. There have been, I am glad to say, great energy and activity displayed in the Revenue Department, and the seizure and condemnation of several vessels engaged in smuggling will doubtless check an illicit practice which, I fear, is rather prevalent in these waters.

Public Debt.

9. The public debt amounts to 60,961*l.*, 200*l.* having been paid off on the 31st December 1878. In the absence of any sinking fund for the extinction of this debt, I trust that as opportunities occur the Legislature will see how desirable it is to redeem portions of it out of any surplus revenue that may accrue to the Colony, instead of amending the tariff to any great extent with a view of reducing taxation. The interest annually payable is 3,487*l.*, which amounts to a heavy charge upon the revenue. Provision might be made for annual drawings of debentures which would result in a systematic decrease of the liability and a reduction of taxation on account of interest now payable.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of imports in 1878 was 191,234*l.*, against 153,667*l.* in 1877. Improvement in trade and a large increase in the value of property brought to port by vessels in distress account in a great measure for this difference.

11. The exports in 1878 were valued at 142,673*l.*, against 110,931*l.* in 1877. The cause of this increase may, in the same way, be attributed principally to the value of property brought to port by vessels in distress and exported.

12. The value of native produce exported was 93,962*l.* in 1878, and 82,274*l.* in 1877, showing a difference of 11,688*l.* in favour of last year.

	£
1875 - - - -	79,571
1876 - - - -	79,958
1877 - - - -	82,274
1878 - - -	93,962

Cigars and cigarettes of native manufacture were exported for the first time in 1878, *as I anticipated in my previous Report.*

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13. The following tables show at a glance the comparative value of both imports and exports from and to foreign countries :—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom	39,083	44,279
British North America	—	2,010
British West Indies	3,865	931
United States of America	87,708	78,849
Danish West Indies	23	12
Colonies of Spain	5,945	7,600
Hayti	1,029	108
San Domingo	—	—
France	—	6,255
Spain	—	2,282
Portugal	2	—
Mexico	—	329
French West Indies	2	—
Portuguese Possessions	258	—
New Granada	—	18
Rio Janeiro	3	—
Vessels in distress	36,120	—
Wrecks	16,535	—
Derelict	661	—
	191,234	142,673

14. The increase of value on imports during the year 1878 over that of 1877 may be accounted for as follows :

Articles.	1877.	1878.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Apples	68	69	1
Beans and peas	126	507	381
Biscuit and bread, fancy	212	296	84
Boats	6	52	46
Brass, old	—	6	6
Butter	3,387	3,567	180
Cabbages	18	25	7
Calves	8	12	4
Cattle	1,430	1,661	231
Cigars	201	262	61
Coal	340	1,005	665
Cocoa	1	135	134
Cocoanuts	12	170	158
Dogs	6	10	4
Fish, dried	331	532	201
Guano	—	174	174
Honey and syrup	—	34	34
Hoops and shooks	—	671	671
Horses	64	182	118
Hulks and materials of vessels	783	898	115
Lard	1,966	2,960	994
Locomotive	—	400	400
Meat, salted	5,618	6,131	513
Molasses	1,835	4,467	2,632
Mules	—	150	150
Nails, iron	473	715	242
Oats and bran	95	195	100
Oils, linseed, &c., paying $7\frac{1}{2}d.$	1,515	1,933	418
Oils, olive, „ „ 1*s.*	32	68	36
Palm grease	—	6	6

ARTICLES.	1877.	1878.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Philosophical instruments	—	42	42
Pitch, tar, and rosin	103	851	748
Potatoes, onions, and other vegetables	549	944	395
Poultry	—	173	173
Prunes	4	10	6
Rice	3,562	3,972	410
Rum, 18 to 24	2,708	4,576	1,868
Rum, weaker than 24	67	87	20
Seed for planting	24	37	13
Shingles, cypress	794	823	29
Shingles, not cypress	50	70	20
Soap, common	1,161	1,230	69
Specie	2,395	4,625	2,230
Sponge	20	3,928	3,908
Sugar, refined	1,893	2,259	366
Sugar, unrefined	11,875	27,109	15,234
Sugar boilers, &c.	59	433	374
Swine	4	32	28
Tops	—	37	37
Turtle	—	79	79
Turtle-shell	192	573	381
Wines	1,052	1,161	109
Woods, viz.:—			
Logwood	183	1,120	937
Mahogany	—	145	145
Ad valorem 20*l.* per centum	52,266	59,869	7,603
Ad valorem 25*l.* per centum	4	4,578	4,574
	97,492	146,056	48,564

15. The value and quantity of flour imported during the last four years has been as follows :—

Year.	Barrels.	Value.
		£
1875	22,703	23,065
1876	19,939	19,371
1877	14,747	19,007
1878	17,525	17,360

There were good crops on the Out-islands last year. It will be observed that there has been a considerable reduction in the price of flour since 1877.

16. A decrease is shown in the following imports :—

ARTICLES.	1877.	1878.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Alcohol	90	63	27
Ale and porter in bottles	597	250	347
Ale and porter in wood	1,060	1,011	49
Bananas	2	—	2
Bark	1,050	—	1,050
Biscuit and bread, common	603	465	138
Brandy	1,219	737	482
Candles, sperm, &c.	753	690	63
Candles, tallow	293	250	43
Cheese	516	455	61

ARTICLES.	1876.	1877.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Coffee	12,059	7,640	4,419
Copper and yellow metal, &c.	60	39	21
Copper, old	2	—	2
Corn	667	645	22
Corn meal and hominy	6,688	6,560	128
Cotton gins	14	—	14
Currants, figs, and raisins	129	90	39
Fish, pickled	157	137	20
Flour, rye	10	5	5
Flour, wheat	19,007	17,355	1,652
Gin, whiskey, and other spirits	1,357	882	475
Gunpowder	41	27	14
Hay	122	119	3
Hides, raw	578	14	564
Ice	450	350	100
Iron	4	2	2
Lumber	2,525	1,984	541
Meat, fresh	778	757	21
Oakum	86	61	25
Plants	76	1	75
Printed books	432	298	134
Salt mills	61	—	61
Sugar, white clayed	68	27	41
Tallow	10	9	1
Tea	522	403	119
Tobacco, manufactured	3,347	3,262	85
Tobacco, unmanufactured	684	561	123
Turpentine	5	—	5
Turpentine, spirits of	53	29	24
	56,175	45,178	10,997

Wrecks and Casualties.

17. There was a considerable increase in these disasters as regards numbers and the value of the cargoes landed therefrom when compared with previous years.

		£
1875—Wrecks	11	23,846
Distress	11	3,595
	22	27,441
1876—Wrecks	12	11,658
Distress	7	13,489
	19	25,147
1877—Wrecks	6	13,975
Distress	7	7,479
	13	21,454
1878—Wrecks	15	16,535
Distress	30	36,120
	45	52,655

Public Health and Temperature.

18. During 1878 the Colony enjoyed a fair average of health. Though some of the Southern States of America were ravaged by yellow fever, which carried off 20,000 persons, and though there were several outbreaks in Jamaica, the Bahamas were mercifully spared from any such dire calamity. The most rigid quarantine was of course maintained over vessels from Cuba, Jamaica, Key West, and the southern ports of America, and only one suspicious case occurred at the Athol Island station in the person of a native of the Current, who had come here from Key West, where there were several cases of fever. There was, however, an epidemic of whooping cough which prevailed for several months, causing much distress and some mortality amongst the children of the labouring classes. The actual mortality cannot be definitely stated, the cases having been included under the column of "other causes," which shows a high figure—195 for the first three quarters out of 585.

19. The general returns for the Colony of births and deaths were as follows:—

BIRTHS.

——	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	104	80	73	—	—
Out-islands - -	364	304	263	—	—
	468	384	336	372*	1,560

DEATHS.

——	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	62	63	82	63	270
Out-islands - -	114	103	161	112	490
	176	166	243	175*	760

Taking the population as 44,400, the ratio of births is for the Colony—

35·12 per 1,000

And of deaths - 17·11 „

For 1877 the ratio was—

Births - - - 34·4 per 1,000

Deaths - - - 15·23 „

20. No hurricane visited these shores last year, but reports were received of several which devastated portions of the coast of Cuba and Florida. Throughout the month of September the weather here was unusually rough, the bar of Nassau Harbour being impassable for six days consecutively, an occurrence which has not happened within the memory of the "oldest inhabitant." It was owing to the fearful gales in the neighbourhood of this

* Assumed as average.

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Colony, of which the impassableness of the bar was evidence, that a greater number of vessels sought refuge in Nassau Harbour in distress, or were wrecked on the reefs and shoals with which the waters of the Colony abound.

21. The heat was below the average, the rainfall 65 inches, and the number of rainy days 159, as will be seen from the following Meteorological Table:—

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for 1878.

—	Thermometer.				Rainfall.			
	Max. in the Shade. at 9 a.m.	Min. in the Shade. at 9 a.m.	Max. in the Sun (24 hours).	Mean at 3 p.m.	Rain-fall.	No. of Rainy Days.	Max. Fall in 24 hours.	Date.
					inches.			
January - - -	76·5	61·0	140·0	73·3	5·15	16	1·10	30
February - - -	78·0	62·5	146·0	73·9	7·05	11	2·00	27
March - - -	82·5	65·2	149·5	76·7	2·36	7	1·05	21
April - - - -	82·2	70·0	150·2	80·4	3·19	8	1·00	10
May - - - -	86·5	75·5	156·5	81·8	7·28	7	2·40	17
June - - - -	89·8	71·0	154·0	84·0	6·56	19	1·60	15
July - - - -	89·5	74·5	159·0	85·8	6·05	20	1·88	15
August - - -	88·8	78·8	157·9	85·8	9·26	18	2·13	24
September - - -	87·2	78·0	153·0	84·2	7·15	24	1·60	21
October - - -	83·5	75·5	153·0	81·1	7·37	12	4·50	20
November - - -	79·0	71·0	157·5	76·1	2·84	10	1·21	14
December - - -	77·5	65·8	155·0	73·8	1·38	7	0·55	9
Sums - -	1001·0	848·8	1830·7	956·9	65·64	159	21·02	—
Means - -	83·5	70·7	152·6	79·7	5·47	13	1·75	—

The prevalent wind was N.E. 118½ days.

Salt Trade.

22. The shipments from Inagua, the principle salt producing Island, were about 200,000 bushels, of which from 75,000 to 80,000 were for the United States. The season of 1878 opened auspiciously, and continued favourable up to the latter part of September, but the demand, with the exception of an occasional vessel for fine salt for the Dominion, did not begin until November when several cargoes were exported to the United States. The demand has since been steady, prices having advanced from 10 cents to 13 cents for coarse salt, at which latter price several cargoes have been shipped. The usually dry easterly winds which prevailed chiefly through the summer, rendered the frequent opening of the canal unneccessary, and the consequence was a very decided improvement in the character of the pickle, as shown by the superior quality of the salt. The flood-gates were destroyed by a storm in October, which resulted in the effectual closing of the canal. At no time it is said, since the great flood of 1867, which diseased the pond, has the appearance of the pickle been so promising as at present. The winter salt now being gathered is unusually good, and it is confidently expected that with propitious weather the coming crop will show a marked improvement in quality. The quantity of salt raked in 1878, generally estimated at 600,000 bushels, may be safely stated as 450,000. With occasional sales through the summer the smaller proprietors would have been enabled to increase their gatherings very materially.

The scarcity of labour, too, was a great obstacle in the way of securing a fair crop. Had there been the necessary supply of cash, provisions, and labour, the crop, it is considered, could have been doubled. Many of the labouring class have gone to Hayti hoping to improve their condition, but with few exceptions they would doubtless willingly return.

23. The quantity, value, and destination of salt exported from the Colony in the last six years have been as follows :—

Year.	To United States.	To British North America and elsewhere.	Total.	Value.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	£
1873 - -	698,000	157,000	855,000	11,118
1874 - -	265,194	113,194	378,388	6,184
1875 - -	78,563	188,475	267,038	4,948
1876 - -	93,212	188,552	281,764	4,639
1877 - -	207,110	140,270	347,380	6,476
1878 - -	110,011	136,589	246,600	5,280

Sponge Trade.

24. The export of this article in 1878 shows an increase of about 33⅓ per cent. over that of the preceding year. This important gain is solely attributable to the re-opening of the Cuban Fisheries. In the early part of last year licences were issued to the masters of Bahama vessels to fish and sponge off the Coast of Cuba. In a short time nearly all the sponging fleet of the Colony deserted the old fisheries for those that had not been troubled since the commencement of the insurrection. So great was the quantity fished that towards the close of the year only a few vessels found it profitable to renew their licenses. Equal results for the present year cannot be anticipated, but a hope may reasonably be entertained that they will exceed the average of the three or four years immediately preceding that which has just closed. Notwithstanding the increased supply in 1878, the demand was fully sustained and prices compared favourably with those of former years. The quantity and value are exhibited in the following table :—

	1877.		1878.	
	lbs.	Value. £	lbs.	Value. £
Boat - - -	21,853	747	19,165	686
Glove - - -	20,301	610	17,292	521
Grass - - -	78,956	1,837	174,228	2,003
Hardhead - -	24,916	1,124	37,530	1,560
Mixed - - -	9,873	157	4,320	149
Reef - - -	25,369	2,686	33,840	2,934
Refuse - - -	12,039	247	14,322	210
Velvet - - -	48,170	4,100	62,708	5,277
Wool - - -	62,625	6,500	86,393	10,406
Yellow - - -	20,572	500	35,787	990
	324,674		485,585	
	cwt. 2,899	18,508	cwt. 4,335	24,736

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Pine-apple Trade.

25. The value of pine-apples shipped in 1878 was 29,301*l.* against 40,331*l.* in 1877. The sale of early pine-apples, for which good prices have hitherto been generally obtained, was last year nearly unremunerative. It is difficult to account for this, but I am inclined to think that the shippers are too anxious to be the first in the market, and the result is that a quantity of inferior fruit is shipped to New York at the beginning of the season, and later sales are thereby prejudiced. The season was a poor one throughout. Several shipments resulted in a total loss, occasioned partly by bad markets and partly, it is *said*, by excessive decay of the fruit. On the other hand, the trade with England was rather better than during 1877 and the few years previous. In some cases handsome prices were secured for good fruit. These constantly recurring losses on shipments to America and gains on those to England give rise to a suspicion that the interests of the Bahamas are not carefully guarded in the United States market. If this is the case it is a matter for the most serious consideration whether the shippers ought not to co-operate for the purpose of appointing one of their number as an agent at New York and of supporting him against any combination there. The pine-apple trade of the Colony can never flourish to any great extent so long as the present excessive risk attaches to it.

26. The fruit preserving companies in the Colony exported during the year :—

			Value. £
24,245	cases preserved	Pine-apples	7,709
206	„ „	Guava	82
11	„ „	Bananas	11
3	„ „	Wild Grapes	1

27. I fear that on the whole these companies have not found the business a very remunerative one. They will, however, doubtless continue it, as it is the only way of saving fruit which would otherwise ripen and rot in the fields, or which, if sent away, would serve only further to depress the markets abroad. Splendid pine-apples, which in Covent Garden Market would have been worth 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* each, were sold in Nassau last summer at a shilling a dozen. During 1876 there was only one company engaged in the preserving of this fruit, and the value of the export was about 1,600*l.* or 1,800*l.* In 1877 others embarked in it, and the value of the fruit exported was 8,316*l.* Last year the value was 7,709*l.*, a decline occasioned mainly by over production in the previous year and the consequent low prices both here and in the United States markets. So low were these prices that the canning establishments in Baltimore were able to compete with those in the Bahamas in the matter of price, although of course not in that of quality. There is a probability of a further decline during the year unless some unusual and unlooked for demand should arise, or unless (which is very unlikely) some changes should be made in the Tariff of the United States, which

now gives an immense advantage to the canning establishments in that country over those in this Colony.

Oranges, Shaddocks, &c.

28. Oranges and bananas were more largely exported last year than usual, and there is a fair prospect of a regular, though perhaps small, increase in the trade in these fruits for years to come. As I have stated in a previous report, bananas are a very profitable fruit. The crop of grape fruit and shaddock was very small, and consequently the quantities shipped were less than in the year previous. The returns for 1877–78 were as follows :—

	1877.		1878.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Oranges, *m.* - - -	3,217	4,370	3,316	4,768
Grapefruit and shaddocks, *m.* -	294	384	132	208
Lemons and limes, *m.* - -	493	78	306	103
Bananas, bunches - - -	15,593	653	18,974	827
Cocoa-nuts *m.* - - -	10,000	25	15,663	60
	—	5,510	—	5,966

Woods.

29. The trade in woods was altogether smaller in 1878 than in the previous year, the value of the export being 5,716*l.* in 1877, and 4,541 in the past year. The decrease occurred mainly in lignum-vitæ, satin wood, sabica, mahogany, and to some extent also in logwood, nearly the whole of which is sent to the United States. The wood of the Colony, as a rule, is shipped to England, and the depression in business in the mother country has not been without its effect on the trade in these Islands. A very material reduction has taken place in the value of satin-wood, lignum-vitæ, and mahogany, the export of which in 1878 did not amount to one-fourth of that in 1877. In these woods it is hardly possible there can be any further decline.

VARIETIES, QUANTITY, and VALUE of WOODS exported in 1878.

Woods.	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Braziletto - - - - tons	294	640
Cedars - - - - No.	126	6
Ebony - - - - tons	199	773
Fustic - - - - cwts.	45	6
Lignum-vitæ - - - tons	102	140
Logwood - - - - ,,	1,037	2,423
Mahogany - - - - pcs.	60	90
Sabica - - - - tons	167	316
Satin - - - - pcs.	5,037	129
Timbers - - - - ,,	574	18
	—	4,541

Bark.

30. There was a slight increase in the shipments of bark in 1878 over those in 1877, although the trade was very little more than half the value of that in 1876.

Barks.	1877.		1878.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
Cascarilla - -	514	248	569	291
Canella alba - -	55	27	82	42
	569	275	651	333

Guano.

31. The value of cave earth exported in 1878 was 8,192*l.* Seventeen vessels, of a total tonnage of 3,536 tons, loaded with cave earth during the past year. The deposit was taken chiefly from private cays, and no royalty therefore accrued to the Crown beyond the minimum annual royalty payable by Messrs. Dunlap, Jones, and Co. The shipments of that firm from caves on Crown lands did not amount to 1,000 tons. The increase in the export of this fertilizer is attributable to the enterprise of a Liverpool firm which embarked largely in it. I am informed, however, that the experiment has not been successful, as the earth did not meet with a ready sale, and large quantities remain unsold in Europe.

32. In December last a license was issued to Mr. C. H. Neill, of New York, to remove guano or earth containing phosphate of lime from both Inagua and Jumentos Rocks at 8*s.* a ton.

Crown Lands and Salt Ponds.

33. During 1878 there were two auction sales of Crown land, one in Nassau and the other at Harbour Island, at which 29 country and 31 town and suburban lots, comprising 650 acres, and of the value of 241*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, were disposed of. Ninety-one country and 15 town lots, or about 1,100 acres, were also allotted to occupiers at upset prices. Surveys were made of 191 country and 77 town and suburban allotments at an expense of 237*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* One hundred and forty-three grants for 1,054 acres of land, and 8 for 34a. 1r. 10p. of salt ponds, were made, the value of the granted lands being 561*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and that of the ponds 341*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The total amount of Crown revenue for the year was 1,481*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure 1,349*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* The receipts for sales and arrears of Crown Land amounted to 675*l.* 14*s.* 9*d*, of which 204*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* was on account of sales in 1877 and 1878, 138*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* on account of new applications to purchase; 131*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* being arrears of old sales, and 197*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

payments by squatters. A comparative statement for 1877 and 1878 is annexed :—

	1877.	1878.
Revenue and Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Crown Fund Revenue to 31st December.	1,884 9 0	1,481 7 8*
Crown Fund Expenditure to 31st December.	1,823 4 8	1,249 0 0
Crown Land Sales, Receipts and Surveys.		
Quantity sold by auction:		
Number of allotments - -	17 country and 14 town and suburban.	29 country and 31 town and suburban.
Acreage - - -	225	650
Value - - - -	186 17 6	241 19 11
Quantity sold at upset price :		
Number of allotments - -	33 country and 6 town.	91 country 15 town lots.
Acreage - - -	890	1,100
Value - - - -	232 12 6	363 15 5
Receipts :		
On account of sales in each year	184 16 4	204 16 9
Arrears and squatters - -	1,090 13 9	331 19 6
On account of unsold allotments	106 10 3	138 18 6
Surveys :		
Number of allotments - -	106 country, 40 town and suburban.	191 country, 77 town and suburban.
Acreage - - -	1,817	2,950
Expenditure during the year -	271 2 4	237 14 6
Grants:		
Number of grants made -	Land 32	Land 14 3
Acreage - - -	687	1,054
No of grants made - -	Salt Pond—Nil	Salt Pond—8
Acreage - - -	Nil	34a. 1r. 10p.

Post Office.

34. The total revenue of the Post Office from all sources for the year ending 31st December 1878 was 1,731*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*, and the net amount paid into the Public Treasury was 1,569*l.* This is a decrease on the preceding year, when the total revenue amounted to 1,864*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.*, and the amount paid into the Treasury to 1,678*l.* This decrease is mainly due to changes in the Money Order Department.

35. The following table shows the amount remitted on account of money orders, and the amount of commissions received on them for the last three years :—

Year.	Amount remitted.	Commission.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	12,157 8 8	486 5 5¾
1877	7,548 1 2	301 18 5
1878	530 6 2	21 4 2½

* Including Mr. Neill's deposit of 200*l.*

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A slight increase has taken place in the amount of money orders paid in the Colony over that of the two preceding years :—

Year.	Amount paid.	Commission.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	85 5 1	0 17 10¾
1877	142 5 0	1 8 5
1878	189 3 11	1 17 9¾

36. The amount of allowances received from the Imperial Government for official correspondence is given as 385*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.* against 445*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.* for 1877, and 1,091*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* for 1876. The receipts from other sources were 557*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* against 487*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* for 1877, and 475*l.* 8*s.* 9¼*d.* for 1876.

37. The Postmaster-General reports that there was a slight decrease in the amount received for inter-insular and ship letters, and a large increase in the amount received for loose letters and letters from the United States of America. The amounts received for the rental of post office boxes in Nassau, and from Out-island postmasters on account of postage and stamps have been nearly double those received for 1877.

38. The receipts from the sale of postage stamps amounted to 785*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, to which is to be added 42*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, the value of stamps sold on the Out-islands by district postmasters, making a total of 828*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, a large increase on 1877, when the total sale was 628*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, and on 1876, when the total sale was 531*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* This increase is principally due to the Stamp Act, which came into operation in July 1877. There are no means of accurately ascertaining the quantity of stamps sold for fiscal purposes, but I have reason to believe that the amount sold for the purposes of the Stamp Act is about 300*l.*

39. The weight of mails received from the United Kingdom was of letters 256 lbs. 8½ ozs., of newspapers 2,100 lbs. 2 ozs., and of books and patterns 1,012 lbs. 9 ozs. The weight of mails sent to the United Kingdom was of letters 301 lbs. 5¾ ozs., of newspapers 198 lbs. 8½ ozs. and of books and patterns 94 lbs. 11¾ ozs. The number of letter rates received from the United States of America was 13,356, of newspapers 9,377, and of books and patterns 2,923. The number of letters sent to the United States was 12,518, of newspapers 2,412, and of books and patterns 474. The number of ship letters received by private vessels was 5,482, and of newspapers 238. The number of letters for the West Indies was 704, of newspapers 436, of books, &c., 114.

40. The Inter-insular service was performed in a very satisfactory manner. The number of letters received by these packets was 4,708, and of letters sent 4,655, being an increase on the previous year, when the number received was 4,354, and the number sent 3,881.

41. A large number of letters were received from the United Kingdom on which the postage was insufficiently paid, in consequence of which the parties receiving them had to pay the deficient postage together with a fine of 1*s.* Insufficiently paid letters from the United States are forwarded *viâ* St. Thomas, and on them a charge of 1*s.* 1*d.* per ½ oz. used to be levied, but on a representation by the Imperial Government that the charge was excessive, the rate has been reduced to 9*d.*

42. The fee on registered letters between the Bahamas and the United Kingdom has been reduced during the year from 4*d* to 2*d.* Letters can now be registered to any part of the United States at the following rates, which must be prepaid in Bahamas and American stamps, viz., in Bahamas stamps 4*d.* per ½ oz. and 2*d.* registration fee, and in American stamps 3 cents per ½ oz. and ten cents registration fee. As the public have long felt the want of registration between this Colony and the United States, the introduction of the present system will be a great boon. Letters are registered to any part of the West Indies on the payment of a registration fee of 6*d.* in addition to the ordinary postage.

43. Money orders continue to be issued for small amounts to the United Kingdom. The discontinuance of the former is a great inconvenience to private individuals as well as a great loss to the Colonial Exchequer, without any compensating advantage to the Imperial Government.

44. The question of entering into the postal union will be again considered by the Legislature. In his excellent report upon his department, the Postmaster-General has clearly indicated the advantages which would arise to the Colony by coming within this arrangement. It appears that if the correspondence were maintained at its present rate, the loss to the revenue would be between three and four hundred a year. Cheap postage, however, would be certain to cause an increased correspondence, and the loss might be materially reduced by charging an internal rate of 1*d.* on every letter received at and delivered from the Post Office.

45. That the Colony will eventually apply for permission to join the International Postal Union, I do not doubt, but very likely the Legislature will see difficulties in the way during this session. With a slight revival of prosperity there is naturally a revival of claims upon the Public Exchequer, and there is every chance that members of the House will look upon the question simply as one of profit and loss, and without reference to probabilities and possible indirect advantages. The matter is somewhat further embarrassed by uncertainty as to the contribution of 1,000*l.* a year towards the mail subsidy by the Imperial Government. This sum is now voted annually, but no pledge has been given as to its continuance, and though it is admitted that there are important Imperial interests at stake in the Bahamas, the feeling of confidence in the Home Government in regard to it has been much shaken by the loss of between 400*l.* and 500*l.* a year, which

BAHAMAS. was inflicted by the Imperial Treasury on the Colonial postal revenue in 1877 by the abolition, without any warning whatever, of the money order system on commission.

Mail Service.

46. The mail service was fairly conducted by Messrs. Murray, Ferris & Co., but the "Cleopatra," a vessel which they had repaired at a cost of 6,000*l.* under the eye of an inspector appointed on behalf of this Government by Mr. Consul-General Archibald, was unfortunately run aground and seriously damaged at Cochrane's Anchorage, a few lines from Nassau. The "San Jacinto," also a favourite vessel, which was used by them in 1877–8, was sold, and they had to charter another steamer for the winter service. This occasioned an interruption and an amount of irregularity which, in conjunction with various alterations in the charge for freight, were very prejudicial to Colonial interests, and which cannot be suffered in future. Bermuda, with a revenue little more than half of that of the Bahamas, and with exports to the value of 75,000*l.* a year against 90,000*l.* from this Colony, has steam communication with New York once a week during the winter. If new industries are to be fostered here, and the tomato business, which promises exceedingly well, is to be successful and remunerative, some such arrangement must be made in regard to the Bahamas. I have always been of opinion that the Colony ought to possess a steamer of its own, for the purpose of conveying passengers, carrying native produce at the lowest possible rate, and of making connexion with a vessel for New York at some southern port. I believe that it would pay its way, but financial difficulties have hitherto prevented me from laying the matter before the Legislature. For direct communication with New York in the winter the Colony might rely upon some substantial company. For the summer months—say from May to September —a northern service is certainly not so necessary, so far as passenger traffic is concerned, as it is in the winter months. The present service gives four communications a month with Jacksonville, and connexion with New York by steamer or rail. This will terminate at the end of April, when fresh arrangements will have to be made, but I doubt if the subsidy, 4,950*l.* will suffice to secure a service in every respect first rate. At this moment there are about 125 visitors from Canada and the United States in Nassau, and there can be little doubt that if the mail service commanded confidence, and the vessels were of a higher class than those which have been recently employed, the accommodation offered at the Royal Victoria Hotel and the other establishments in the city would be insufficient to meet the demand that would arise. The matter to my mind is really of general and vital importance.

Legislation.

47. Including the annual appropriation Act, which fell short by over 1,200*l.* of that of the previous year, there were only 13

Acts passed by the Legislature during the last session. Of these three only require special notice—the others, for the most part, being amendments in the details of existing laws.

48. The 41 Vict. c. 1. to authorise the holding of special sessions of the general court, is intended to provide a remedy for a state of things to which attention had been recently particularly attracted. Persons charged with offences during the recess of the general court, which holds its regular sessions four times a year only, often escaped trial because the witnesses went out of the Colony before the next meeting of the court. Under this Act power is given to the Chief Justice, on application on behalf of the Crown, to hold special sessions of the court at any time, for the trial of any offence which may be ready for trial.

49. The 41 Vict. c. 6. "To amend the Act 28 Vict. c. 14, to "amend the Licensed Vessels Act, 1858," enables the Governor to direct a new or further investigation into the causes of wrecks in any case in which it may appear to him that the investigation held under the 28 Vict. c. 14, had not been effective. The investigations under this latter Act were said to be final; and whenever it happened, which was frequently, that material facts bearing upon a particular disaster only came to light after the magisterial investigation had been concluded, no means existed by which those facts could be made to appear, and have effect as part of the proceedings. The present Act will remedy this defect.

50. The 41 Vict. c. 12, rendering elementary education compulsory, was imperatively called for. A vote of 2,200*l.* for public educational purposes is provided by the Legislature, and public schools have been established throughout the Colony. Yet it was manifest that there was an apathy and an indifference amongst the people in availing themselves of the privileges thus offered to them, which called for legislative intervention. The present Act is modelled upon Imperial legislation, and already its effects (as will be seen under the head of Education) in largely increasing the attendance at the public schools, show the necessity which existed for it, and how beneficial it will be in its results.

Crime.

51. There was not during the past year a single conviction for the graver offences against the person, whilst the gravest offence against property has been shopbreaking. As to this crime, the gravity of it is much diminished when the primitive character of the buildings and the nature of the fastenings used to secure them are considered.

52. In 1877 there were 41 informations filed against 43 persons. In 1878 there were only 27 filed against 32 persons; of these 4 were filed against the same man, and 8 persons were included in one information. In the number, therefore, of informations as well as of accused there has been a very marked decrease.

53. The criminal statistics for 1878 are highly satisfactory. The Attorney-General's detailed report upon the results of the session was enclosed in my despatch No. 24, of the 27th instant.

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Gaol.

54. The annual report on the goal also accompanied my Despatch No. 24, of the 27th instant.

55. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 415; 1 for debt, 40 for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, and 374 for penal imprisonment. Of the commitments for penal imprisonment, 11 were convicted before the Supreme Criminal Court of the Colony, and the remainder were convictions for petit larceny, breaches of the peace, and other minor offences before the police magistrate of Nassau, and the justices on the Out-islands. Compared with the returns of the previous year, there has been an increase in the amount of crime, the total number of commitments for 1877 being 386,—39 for safe custody, and 347 for penal imprisonment. This is attributable to the increase, not of serious crimes, but of petty misdemeanors, such as the use of abusive language among females, and petty larcenies. To the number of convictions before the Supreme Criminal Court, there is to be added one conviction of a prisoner who remained untried from 1877. There was also one commitment for debt. Of the 374 prisoners sentenced to penal imprisonment 60 had been previously committed once, 35 twice, and 157 thrice and oftener.

56. The daily average number of prisoners was 72·91, of whom 53·72 were males, 12·65 females, and 6·54 juveniles, the highest number on any day being 86, and the lowest 57. The daily average for 1877 was 83·57, of whom 60·51 were males, and 16·10 females, and 6·96 juveniles.

57. The expenditure of the establishment, including the salaries of the keeper, chaplain, and all the subordinate officers, amounted to 1,582*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, showing a decrease of 166*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* when compared with the expenditure of the preceding year. As a set-off against this expenditure, it is to be noted that a daily average of 42 prisoners was employed on the public roads and works, and that their labour, estimated at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, would amount to 821*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in the year. Six prisoners were in addition daily employed in the prison service as cooks and yardsmen.

58. From the beginning of January to the end of March 1878, 54,672 lbs. of sugar canes were ground within the prison walls, the yield from which in juice was 3,089 gallons, and in syrup 457½ gallons. The greater part of this was ground on toll at the rate of one-third of the yield in syrup; the rest was purchased by the prison. The amount placed to the credit of the prison was in all 246 gallons, or in money, at the rate of 2*s.* sterling per gallon, 24*l.* 16*s.* The grinding recommenced on the 18th of December, and up to the 28th 13,476 lbs. were ground, yielding in juice 877 gallons, and in syrup 126 gallons, which at 2*s.* per gallon gives a value of 12*l.* 12*s.* The canes were supplied from that portion of Government House grounds known as the "Wilderness." The only sugar made in 1878 was on the 26th of March, when 4,415 lbs. of canes were ground, which yielded in juice 248 gallons.

This again yielded in sugar 100 lbs. and in syrup 8 gallons. The prisons proportion was 33 lbs. of sugar, and $2\frac{2}{3}$ gallons of molasses.

59. Ginning of cotton on a limited scale was carried on by the female prisoners. If a sufficiently large quantity of cotton could be obtained, the expenditure for the prison might be considerably reduced. Experience shows that the labour of prisoners, especially those sentenced to long terms, may be usefully employed in other forms than in the drudgery of quarrying stones and mending roads. One of the main causes of crime is poverty combined with laziness, and whatever tends to produce habits of industry, and make persons skilful in profitable kinds of industry, must also tend to diminish crime, and, by elevating the character of criminals, to accomplish one of the great objects for which prisons are maintained, viz., the reformation of prisoners. The amount in the Public Bank to the credit of the cotton and sugar mill account on the 31st December was 83*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and at the same time there was in store syrup and cotton of the value of 27*l.* 18*s.* $6\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

60. The medical officer reports that during the past year 47 prisoners have been treated in hospital for various disorders, chiefly however for dysenteric affections. No death has occurred, and the general sanitary condition of the establishment has been very satisfactory.

Hospital.

61. As stated in my speech to the Parliament of this Colony on the 4th instant, the hospital and asylum are not well adapted to the purposes for which they are used. It will, ere long, be necessary to erect a proper building with such appliances as will render it possible to effect not only improvements in the internal management of the institution, but still further to reduce its annual expenditure.

62. The establishment embraces:

(1.) A pauper asylum or almshouse.

(2.) Hospital for treating sick poor, three male and five female wards.

(3.) A detached leper ward.

(4.) Two lunatic wards, the male 12 celled, and the female six celled.

63. A full account of the accommodation afforded in the institution, of the duties of the medical officer and dispenser, with other particulars, will be found in my Despatch No. 20 of the 13th instant

64. The total number of inmates in 1878 was 201, classified as follows:—

Paupers - - -	43
Hospital - - -	114
Lepers -	9
Lunatics - - - -	35
	201

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65. The admissions through the year were 141, of which 8 were moribund.

Discharged - - - -	72
Deaths - - - -	48
Remaining 1st January 1879 - -	81
	201

Of these last there are: lunatic and imbecile 21, lepers 6, general sick and aged 54; total 81. The proportional death-rate was 23·88. The reasons for the high death-rate have been explained in my previous reports.

Education.

66. There are at present 31 schools under the Board of Education open in these Islands. There are also 10 schools which from various reasons have been closed. At the several schools which had been open during the year, including Sandilands and the Bluff, Eleuthera (which have only been closed for a part of the year), there has been an attendance of 2,937 scholars: 816 in New Providence, 642 in Eleuthera, 313 in Abaco, 264 in San Salvador, 220 at Harbour Island, 139 in Exuma, 139 in Long Island, 90 at Spanish Wells, 78 at Mathew Town, Inagua, 68 in Bimini, 63 in Grand Bahama, 54 in Fortune Island, and 51 in Andros. In other schools not under the care of the board it is calculated that there is an attendance of about 2,000 scholars, so that the entire number of children receiving instruction in the Colony is under 5,000, considerably less than one-half of the number that ought to be at school. Of those who are at school the attendance is often so irregular, that the benefit both from mental and moral discipline and from the acquisition of positive knowledge is in many cases much inferior to what it ought to be.

67. In almost all the schools which have been examined during the past year, however, there is a sensible improvement in the state of education. The adoption of a classification of scholars according to definite standards continues to produce favourable results, and the payment of teachers, partly according to their qualifications, as determined by classification, and partly according to the number of children in attendance at school, a system which has been adhered to in all recent appointments to the Out-islands, tends greatly to increase the interest in the schoolwork and the efficiency of the instruction.

68. In accordance with the provisions of an Act passed last session, the system of compulsory education has been introduced in the Island of New Providence; but it has not as yet been deemed prudent to introduce it into any of the other Islands. The Act has been too short a time in force to enable me to report definitely on it. The difficulties in the way of its universal enforcement from the carelessness of parents, the irregular habits of the children, and a deficiency in accommodation, are very considerable. The results, however, since its introduction in October last are most satisfactory and encouraging. The total daily average increase for the first and only quarter in which it has been tried, as compared with the quarter preceding, in the five schools which were open in New Providence, amounted to 135 scholars,

an increase of more than one-third on the number of children (349) in daily attendance during the quarter preceding the enforcement of the Act. No fact can prove more decidedly how necessary the passing of a Compulsory Act was, and how valuable it is likely to prove. It is to be hoped that as the provisions of the Act become generally known, and as parents become impressed with the necessity which the Legislature has imposed on them, the attendance will continue to increase until every child of suitable age will be found enjoying the benefits of regular and efficient elementary instruction.

69. Many of the school-houses are in a bad state of repair, and a considerable sum of money is urgently needed to save the property of the Colony from destruction and to prevent the closing of several valuable schools. The return of financial prosperity will enable the Legislature to repeal the Act suspending the additional grant of 300*l.*, and I have suggested that it should do so.

70. The Victoria school in the eastern district of New Providence was opened last July, and has proved most successful. At the close of the year there were 170 scholars in attendance, and the number has since increased to 212. This building was erected by me out of Crown funds with the sanction of your predecessor, and is handsome and a great ornament to the neighbourhood. It is, however, too small to accommodate the number in regular attendance, and I trust the Legislature will be in a position to make provision for adding a southern wing to it.

Agriculture.

71. As I reported in my Despatch forwarding the Blue Book for 1877, considerable progress has been made during the last four years in Agriculture, and I am glad to say that the trade in native produce, and in tomatoes especially, is increasing and bids fair not only to be permanent but remunerative. The growth of this latter business is best exhibited in the following table:—

1876	-	12	crates	tomatoes exported.
1877	-	200	„	„
1878	-	7,000	„	„

and for this season I anticipate an export of at least 15,000 crates. The plant seems admirably suited to this soil, for it not only grows luxuriantly, but yields a fine and luscious fruit. Tomatoes can be shipped from this Colony to New York as early as the middle of November. If the export of this vegetable and other native productions is to be encouraged, there should be regular communication either with Savannah or New York at least every fortnight, with low rates of freight, during five months in the year.

72. The production of sugar is also much upon the increase, and a corresponding increase in the growth of the cane has taken place. One of the most enterprising employers of labour is now turning out in Nassau a hogshead per diem, and small mills are regularly, and, I believe, profitably working at Harbour Island, Abaco, the Biminis, and other Out-islands. The day is doubtless not far distant when there will be central factories established in the Bahamas, as in Guadaloupe and St. Lucia, at which all small

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growers will find a ready market for their canes. It is probable also that the manufacture of rum will follow close upon the extension of this industry. A case of sugar-canes was received from Mauritius through the kind interposition of Dr. Hooker. Unfortunately very few of the slips reached this Colony with any life in them, but those that did are now growing in the grounds of the Secretary to the Agricultural Board, and their propagation and yield, as compared with the cane generally grown here, should be carefully watched and studied as a matter of great interest to agriculturists.

73. The cultivation of tobacco is also progressing, and, as I have already stated, cigars were exported for the first time last year. Thousands of cigars of native tobacco and manufacture are now smoked in this Colony, and though they fall far short of Havana cigars, I believe their radical defect is rather in the incomplete fermentation and cure of the leaf than in its inferiority to that of the plant grown in the island of Cuba. From the monthly report of the Inspector of Cultivations it appears that 25 acres of land in this island are planted with tobacco, and that some of it is of very fine quality. During the course of last year, samples of the leaf manufactured as well as unmanufactured were sent to Dr. Hooker, but the reports as to quality have not been very satisfactory.

74. The cultivation of bananas is extending in San Salvador, and the planting of cocoanuts is general. About 8,000 or 10,000 have recently been put down at North-west Point, Inagwa, alone; and instead of 15,000, as was the case last year, millions of nuts will in all probability in a few years to come be exported from the Bahamas.

75. In conclusion, I can only repeat in this Despatch what I have so frequently stated in public, viz., that the wealth and progressive improvement of the Colony depend mainly on the exertions and the industry of the people, which will result in an increase of native exports. Experience has shown in large countries, as well as in this Colony, that agricultural boards, enabled by premiums and pecuniary assistance to improve the quality and increase the quantity of exportable produce, are cheap instruments of tangible benefit to the people. Individual as well as national welfare hinges to a very considerable extent upon agriculture, and its encouragement therefore should be an important object of the State. I am thankful to say that this obligation is fully recognised by the Legislature of this Colony, and that the small grant in aid of agriculture which was made a few years ago will be again renewed during the present session for a period of years.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

Governor Sir H. T. IRVING, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Trinidad, August 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for 1878, and to submit the following abstract of its contents.

Taxes and Duties.

In the course of the year the wharfage dues, yielding about 14,000*l.* per annum, were abolished; the Customs' tariff was revised; and the excise duty on rum was increased from 4*s.* 2*d.* to 5*s.* per gallon. The revision of the Customs' tariff included the abolition of the duties on salt fish and salt meat, and of the ad valorem duty of 3½ per cent. on all non-enumerated articles, together with the reduction of the ad valorem duties on cottons, hardware, and leather manufactures from 5 to 3¾ per cent.; the loss to the revenue being compensated by increased duties on wines, spirits, malt liquors, tobacco, and kerosine oil; and by the abolition of drawbacks on re-exportation with the exception of those on flour, rice, malt liquors, wines in wood, spirits in cases, refined sugar, tobacco, gunpowder, and petroleum oil.

The only ad valorem duties now included in the tariff are the following:—

Cottons and linens - - -	3¾ per cent.
Silk - - - - -	10 „
Haberdashery - - - -	10 „
Hardware - - - - -	3¾ „
Leather (saddlery, harness, boots and shoes)	3¾ „

It is in contemplation further to amend the tariff this year by the equalisation of these duties at the uniform rate of 4 per cent.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
The revenue of 1878 amounted to - - -	346,997
The expenditure to - - - -	331,595
Leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of	15,402

But a nearly equal amount was expended on public works from surplus funds, and the net result of the year was a surplus of 970*l.*

The balance at credit of the Government available for appropriation on 31st December 1878 was 68,196*l.*

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As compared with 1877 the revenue of the Colony exhibits an increase of 24,162*l.* of which there is due to—

	£
Customs and excise - - -	16,185
Railway receipts - - -	3,399
Land sales - - - -	2,648

The expenditure of 1878 as compared with 1877 exhibits an increase of 9,000*l.*

Local Revenues.

The revenues have hitherto consisted of ward revenues, consisting of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
House and land tax, spirit licenses, and miscellaneous receipts yielding -	44,000	0	0
Municipal revenues of the boroughs of Port of Spain and San Fernando -	14,000	0	0

The ward revenues and expenditures are now included in the general estimates of the Colony.

Public Debt.

A further 5 per cent. debenture loan of 100,000*l.* redeemable by a 1 per cent. sinking fund was raised in London for railway purposes at a moderate premium, raising with previous loans the total borrowed for railway purposes to 250,000*l.*

The railway to Arima, 16 miles in length, which was opened in July 1876, yielded in 1878 a gross revenue of 22,036*l.*, the expenditure was 12,422*l.*, leaving a net revenue of 9,614*l.*, equal to 5·44 per cent. on the capital account of 176,684*l.* For 1879 the profit on the line will probably exceed 6 per cent.; the return will be still further increased by the completion of the extension to Conna, by which the cost of the central administration will be distributed over a longer mileage.

The extension to Conna, which forms the first section of a line between Port of Spain and San Fernando (the second town of the Island), starts from St. Joseph on the Arima line six miles from Port of Spain. It was begun early in 1878 and will be completed before the end of the current year. It is 16 miles in length, making a total distance from Port of Spain to Conna of 22 miles.

The remaining section from Conna to San Fernando will be 10 miles in length. The sanction of Her Majesty's Government has been obtained for it, and the line will probably be completed in the course of 1880.

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works, beyond the maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, was mainly applied to the improvement and extension of the main roads. The only new buildings on which expenditure of any importance was incurred

were a new prison on Carrera's Island, 3,369*l.*, and new police barracks at St. Joseph, 3,669*l.* Both buildings are now finished.

Legislation.

The following 26 Ordinances, of which six relate to Customs, were passed during the year:—

No. 1. To authorise the raising of a loan of 170,000*l.* sterling for the construction of railways.

No. 2. To amend the law as to penalty for crimes.

No. 3. To impose duties of Customs on oils, rum, and tobacco.

No. 4. To increase the duty on rum or other spirits distilled in this Colony.

No. 5. To fix the times of the sessions of the Supreme Criminal Court in Port of Spain.

No. 6. To appropriate a portion of the surplus funds of the Colony.

No. 7. To repeal certain duties of Customs and to raise other duties in lieu thereof.

No. 8. To effect an exchange of certain lands.

No. 9. To render valid certain assessments of ward rate and returns.

No. 10. To repeal Ordinance 14 of 1869 for raising duties of wharfage and for the appropriation of the same.

No. 11. To amend the law relating to Customs.

No. 12. To exempt the canteen in the police barracks in Port of Spain from the operation of the laws regulating the granting of licenses for the sale of wine, ale, beer, and spirituous liquors by retail.

No. 13. To ratify and confirm the supplemental estimates for the service of the year 1877; and the issue of certain moneys paid for the service of the Government of the Colony during the same year.

No. 14. To continue the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, 1875.

No. 15. For further amending the law with regard to wardens.

No. 16. To repeal an Ordinance, intituled "An Ordinance for the erection of a Bridge over the River Aronca."

No. 17. To fix the security to be given by the Marshal.

No. 18. To amend "The Crown Lands Ordinance, 1875."

No. 19. To empower the Governor to make rules and regulations with regard to tramroads.

No. 20. To amend the Customs Ordinance, 1878.

No. 21. To prevent the fraudulent enlistment of immigrant labourers for foreign parts.

No. 22. To change the official names of certain officers in the Immigration Department.

No. 23. To place the revenue and expenditure of the ward unions on the general estimates of the Colony.

No. 24. To vest in Her Majesty the Queen the San Fernando Tramroad.

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No. 25. To make provision for defraying the expenses of the Government of this Colony for the year 1879.

No. 26. For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1879.

Civil Establishment.

The principal changes in the civil establishment were as follows: —

The appointment of Mr. P. H. Nurd as Auditor-General in the place of Mr. Eagles, promoted to the Receiver-Generalship of British Guiana.

The staff of the audit office was increased from five to eight clerks.

Mr. J. Fanning was appointed from the Imperial Customs to be Collector of Customs, and a tide surveyor was also procured from England.

The Crown Lands Department underwent a change through the transfer of the Sub-Intendant, Mr. O'Connor, to be Stipendiary Magistrate at St. Joseph, and the appointment of Mr. Wilson as Acting Sub-Intendant of Crown lands.

The Survey Department has been amalgamated with the Public Works Department.

Mr. R. G. Bushe was appointed Second Master at the Queen's Royal College, in the place of Mr. Caird, deceased.

An additional Government medical officer, Dr. Thompson, was appointed from England in 1878.

The warden's service was reorganised by the division of the Island into two provinces under the charge of commissioners exercising supervision and control over the several wardens; Mr. Wilson, the Acting Sub-Intendant was appointed Commissioner of the Northern Province, and Mr. Harragin, formerly Warden of Naparima, Commissioner of the Southern Province.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

During 1878 the number of Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony was 3,057, and 477 of those who were entitled to a return passage embarked for India.

Imports and Exports.

The values of the imports and exports for 1878 were—

	£
Imports - - - -	1,901,401
Exports - - - -	1,839,067

As compared with 1877—

Imports - - - -	1,708,457
Exports - - - -	2,093,650

The reduction in the exports of 1878, as compared with 1877 is due to a lower price of sugar. The export of sugar in 1877

was 45,890 tons, in 1878 it was 52,047 tons. But the values as given by the Blue Book were:—

	£
1877 - - -	924,417
1878 - - -	729,679

The import and export of gold, the produce of the mines in Venezuela was:—

	£
Import 1878 - - -	369,759
„ 1877 - - -	352,482
Export 1878 - - -	343,178
„ 1877 - - -	366,904

Specie—

Import 1878 - - -	98,030
„ 1877 - - -	113,829
Export 1878 - - -	79,089
„ 1877 - - -	70,478

Deducting bullion and specie, the imports and exports for 1878 were—

	£
Imports - - - -	1,433,612
Exports - - - -	1,358,334

The export of cocoa—

	lbs.
For 1878 was - - -	9,911,805
For 1877 - - -	9,726,742

The value being—

	£
For 1878 - - - -	336,074
„ 1877 - - - -	281,252

The statistics for 1878 show that, notwithstanding the depression of the sugar market, the progress of the Colony has continued unchecked.

The year has been uneventful, and presents no occurrence calling for record in the present report.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 7.

Governor Strahan, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Government Office, Castries,
May 28, 1879.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1878, and to make the following report upon it.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. By Ordinance No. 1 of 1878 an additional import duty of 4*d.* per pound was imposed upon unmanufactured tobacco; and by the same Ordinance an export duty of 4*d.* per hundredweight was levied upon sugar exported from the Colony.

3. The object of this additional taxation is to provide funds to meet the expenses attendant on the resumption of Coolie immigration. The additional import duty on tobacco is estimated to yield about 1,100*l.* per annum, and the export duty on sugar about 2,200*l.* During 1878, the amounts realised by these two duties were, respectively, 198*l.* 5*s.* and 1,792*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* They were in operation during a portion of the year only. The proceeds of the former are carried to the credit of the general revenue, those of the latter to the credit of the immigration fund.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The total amount shown to have been received during 1878, under the head of general revenue is 28,297*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, which is slightly in excess of the corresponding amount for the previous year, and 911*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the estimated revenue.

5. The expenditure from general revenue was 32,756*l.* 15*s.*, which is 5,409*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the estimated expenditure, and 4,459*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* in excess of the actual revenue received. Nearly the whole of this large excess of expenditure over estimates and receipts is due to two items, neither of which appeared on the estimates of the year, viz., (1) the one-third part of the cost of immigration chargeable by law to general revenue, and (2) amounts paid on account of calls on the preference shares of the St. Lucia Central Factory Company. These two items alone amount to 4,782*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* If the revenue had not been called upon to meet these exceptional and heavy liabilities there would have been, instead of a deficit of 4,459*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, a surplus to the amount of 323*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, and the excess of actual over estimated expenditure would have been only 626*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, instead of 5,409*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

6. The excess of expenditure over revenue was met from the credit balances of the general revenue, and of the special funds. The total treasury balance on the 31st December 1878 (including

the balances of the special funds) was 1,499*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* The aggregate amount of the balances of the special funds (all of which were on the credit side) amounted on that day to 2,671*l.* 16*s.* The general revenue was therefore indebted to the special funds in the sum of 1,172*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

7. It appears from the above statement that the financial condition of the Colony at the close of 1878 was not altogether satisfactory. As I have already shown, however, the deficit of the year was entirely due to special and temporary charges, namely, the cost of immigration and calls on the preference shares of the St. Lucia Central Factory Company. There was never any hope or intention of meeting these charges from the current revenue. It was understood that they should be paid from outstanding balances.

8. This year's estimates provide for the current immigration charges, and there is reason to hope that after the present year, demands on the Colony, beyond the amount needed for the interest and sinking fund of the Central Factory Loan, will cease to be made on account of the shares held in the Central Factory Company.

9. The revenue is amply sufficient to cover all ordinary expenditure, and it shows a steady tendency to increase. Provided that due care and economy are exercised, and that no new costly undertakings are set on foot, I feel confident that at the close of 1880 the finances of the Colony will be found to have recovered a perfectly satisfactory and sound condition.

Local Revenues.

10. The amount of revenue raised during 1878 on account of the several local special funds, was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Casual revenue of the Crown -	20	15	7
Castries Town fund - -	1,619	13	7
Other towns' and villages' fund -	506	9	8
Making a total of - -	2,146	18	10

11. The amount of expenditure was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Casual revenue of the Crown -	550	4	11
Castries Town fund - -	2,045	16	3
Other towns' and villages' fund -	380	19	2
Making a total of - -	2,977	10	4

12. The excess in expenditure, where there was an excess, was met from the credit balances of these funds. At the close of the year there were balances remaining to the credit of the above-mentioned funds, amounting in the aggregate to 861*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

Immigration Fund.

13. The revenue of the immigration fund from all sources, including the proceeds of the sale of 26 debentures of 100*l.* each, amounted to 8,803*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure during the year was 8,386*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* There was, therefore, a credit balance at the close of the year of 416*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

Public Debt.

14. The public debt of the Colony amounted at the close of 1878 to 47,300*l.* It is composed as follows:—

	£
Imperial loan for immigration, 1854 -	- 15,000
Central Factory loan of 1874 and 1875	- 28,700
Immigration loan of 1878 - -	- 3,600
Total - - -	- 47,300

15. On the other hand, the investments made in reduced 3 per cents. to form the sinking fund for the redemption of the Imperial loan of 1854 amounted on the 31st December 1878 to 14,735*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The actual indebtedness of the Colony when credit is taken for this amount, would stand at 32,564*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

16. The loan of 1854 will, I hope, be paid off during the course of the present year.

Population and Vital Statistics.

17. The population on the 31st December 1878 was 36,543.

18. The numbers of births and deaths registered were, respectively, 1,527 and 1,038. The natural increase of the population for the year was therefore 489.

19. The male births numbered 782, the female births 745. Of these, 553 were legitimate, and 974 illegitimate.

20. The birth-rate, still-births being excluded from the calculation, was 40·3 per thousand, a rate less than that of any of the three preceding years, which together gave an average of 43·1 per thousand.

21. The death-rate, still-births not being included, was 26·5 per thousand, a rate slightly in excess of a mean struck between the rates of the three previous years.

22. The rate of mortality of children under five years of age was as usual very high, having been slightly above 50 per cent. of the total mortality.

23. There were 10 deaths from serpents' bites. The following statement shows the number of deaths from this cause since the commencement of registration:—

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Year.	No. of Deaths.
1869 -	- 22	1874 -	- 10
1870 -	- 16	1875 -	- 11
1871 -	- 9	1876 -	- 6
1872 -	- 6	1877 -	- 12
1873 -	- 11	1878 -	- 10

24. The decrease which has taken place may be attributed partly to measures adopted by Mr. Desvœux in 1870 for the destruction of the dreaded serpent of this Island (which measures have since been suspended), and partly to the gradual clearing of land consequent on the extension which has been given to agriculture.

25. The number of deaths falls far short of the actual number of cases of snake-bite. I am credibly informed that under a course of treatment known only to certain natives of the Island, many cures are effected. No remedy, however, is of any avail unless promptly applied. A very bad case has recently been treated with complete success by the Colonial Surgeon. I believe this is the first instance in which a cure has been effected under professional medical treatment.

Public Works.

26. The important work of repairing the Castries wharves, which was begun in 1876, was completed during the year, at a total cost of 3,107*l.* The extent of wharfage available for shipping is 1,981 feet, vessels drawing over 20 feet of water can be moored alongside. With the exception of Kingston, Jumaica, Castries now possesses the safest and most convenient harbour in the British West Indies.

27. The necessary repairs of the public buildings were effected at a cost of 328*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

28. A few small bridges were built, and the ordinary repairs of the roads were carried out. The amount expended for these purposes was 2,615*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* There are about 187 miles of public road in the Island. The average cost of maintenance is about 11*l.* per mile, this would seem to be a large amount for the result obtained. The mountainous nature of the country, and the heavy rains, cause the making and maintenance of roads to be both costly and difficult. There is but a small extent of metalled road in the Island, portions here and there are practicable for wheeled vehicles, but for the most part the so-called roads are in fact little more than bridle-path.

Legislation.

29. Nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1878.

30. A loan of 15,000*l.* for the purposes of Indian immigration was authorised, and important amendments were made in the Immigration Law.

31. The laws with regard to Crown lands were amended and consolidated.

32. A Code of Civil Law, which had been before the Legislative Council for several years, was finally considered and passed. This Code, the authors, or rather compilers, of which are Mr. Desvœux, the Administrator of the Government, and Mr. Armstrong, the Chief Justice, is framed upon the principles of the ancient law of the Island, with such modifications as are con-

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formable to the conditions of modern society, or are required by existing circumstances. On receiving Her Majesty's approval, the Code will, by proclamation of the Governor, become the Law of the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

33. Mr. Desvœux resumed the administration of the Government on the 11th January 1878, after an absence of 18 months, during the whole of which time the Government was administered by Mr. Dix. On the 1st March Mr. Desvœux left the Colony to assume temporarily the Government of Fiji. From that date, until relieved by me on the 19th June following, Mr. Dix again administered the Goverment.

34. On the 11th December 1878, Dr. Otho Galgey was appointed Colonial Assistant Surgeon. Colonial Assistant Surgeon Poett died, and Colonial Assistant Surgeon Dalton resigned his appointment. There were no other changes of importance.

Trade, &c.

35. The following statement shows the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the last three years:—

		£
	Imports.	
1876	- - - -	106,692
1877	- - - -	110,588
1878	- - - -	108,264
	Exports.	
1876	- - - -	143,717
1877	- - - -	178,734
1878	- - - -	151,464

36. The value of the imports has remained almost stationary for the last three years.

37. The quantities of the chief articles of produce exported in 1878 exceeded those exported in the two previous years. The decrease in value of the exports is entirely due to the fall that took place in the price of sugar. The exceptionally high prices that were obtained for cocoa during 1878 gave a great impetus to the trade in that article.

38. The following table gives the quantities and value of the principal articles of produce exported during the last three years:—

	1876.		1877.		1878.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Sugar - -	11,522,688	112,108	12,227,880	145,867	12,720,500	111,140
Cocoa - -	399,030	6,650	243,476	4,058	511,272	19,122
	tons.		tons.		tons.	
Logwood -	4,126	11,536	3,530	14,120	1,988	7,952

Hospitals and Asylums.

39. The following tabular statement gives the chief points of information in connexion with the working of the Castries general hospital during the year 1878, as compared with the corresponding figures for 1877:—

—	1877.	1878.
Admissions	533	913
Cured	362	733
Died	32	38
Per-centage cured	68	80
Death rate per 1,000	60	41·5
Daily average number of patients	46	77

40. The very large increase in admissions during 1878 was caused by the severe sickness that prevailed among the Indian Coolies who arrived in the Colony in the month of April. Of the 913 patients admitted, 340, *i.e.*, considerably more than a third, were Indian immigrants. It will be observed that the per-centage of patients cured in 1878 was higher than during the previous year, and the death rate considerably lower.

41. The management of the hospital reflects credit on Dr. Dennehy, the Colonial Surgeon, upon whom the sole charge of it devolved during the greater portion of the year.

42. Besides the general hospital at Castries, there are district auxiliary hospitals at Soufrière and Vieuxfort, in charge respectively of the Colonial Assistant Surgeons of the second and third districts. These hospitals were almost exclusively used during 1878 for the reception of Indian Coolie patients. There were 458 admissions during the year It is the practice to transfer to the general hospital all cases that are of a serious nature, or are likely to require prolonged treatment or surgical operation. The district auxiliary hospitals are fairly well organised and provided with the necessary fittings and appliances.

43. The result during the year of the treatment of the inmates of the lunatic asylum was satisfactory, six patients were discharged, either cured or relieved. The number of admissions was 8, and the daily average number of inmates 17.

44. The total amount expended during 1878 on the up-keep of hospitals and asylums (not including the salaries of the medical attendants or other officers of the institutions) was 2,433*l.* 1*s.* The average daily number of persons receiving treatment and maintenance was 177, at an average cost of 13*l.* 15*s.* per head.

Crime.

45. The returns relating to crime show a diminution in the number of trials and convictions before the Royal Court, as compared with the same returns for 1877. In 1878 there were 43 cases tried against 60 in the previous year, and there were 32

St. Lucia.

convictions against 39. In 1878, 28 out of the 32 convictions were for offences against property; in 1877, 27 convictions out of 39 were for offences of the same class. Offences of a serious nature against the person are not common in this Colony, the total number of convictions for such offences before the Royal Court during the last four years has been 19, giving a yearly average of less than 5.

46. There was a considerable increase in the number of convictions before the magistrates, there having been 939 summary convictions in 1878 against 778 in the previous year. A portion of this increase may be fairly assigned to the more extended jurisdiction given during the year to the magistrates, by the Summary Conviction Ordinance of 1877. This Ordinance deals with certain classes of minor offences which were not punishable under the law previously in force, a circumstance which would account for the large increase shown in the return for 1878 under the head of "other offences." The numbers for the years 1877 and 1878 were respectively 397 and 543.

Gaol.

47. The gaol returns show that 413 persons suffered imprisonment during 1878 against 477 in 1877. These numbers include those remaining in prison at the close of the previous year. The actual number of persons committed during the year was 357, of these, 11 were imprisoned for debt, 124 were committed for safe custody till trial or for want of security, and 222 for purposes of penal imprisonment. Some improvement has been made in the discipline of the prison. A penal stage in respect of all imprisonments with hard labour has been introduced, shot drill having been made a portion of the hard labour punishment of male prisoners.

48. The bad arrangement and accommodation of the prison have been frequently remarked upon. Plans and estimates of improvements have been made and have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. I fear, however, that it will be impossible, for want of funds, to begin this necessary and important work until next year. Notwithstanding the defective ventilation of the basement cells, the general health of the prisoners was good. There were two deaths during the year and 15 admissions to the infirmary.

49. The cost of the maintenance of the prison (not including the salaries of the officers) was 773*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* The average daily number of prisoners was 44. The average cost of each prisoner's maintenance was therefore 17*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

General Remarks.

50. The general condition of the population of this Island contrasts favourably with that of some of the small British West Indian Colonies. St. Lucia enjoys no exemption from the difficulties that press elsewhere upon the British sugar making industry. Planters are not more prosperous in St. Lucia than in

other places. But among the labouring class and the small proprietary body there are unmistakeable signs of ease and well-being. Not only are the necessaries of life abundant, and absolute want almost unknown, but moreover there is a very considerable and general consumption of what may be termed superfluities if not luxuries.

51. The amount of excise duty paid by a population is, I believe, considered to give some indication of its prosperity. Rum is the universal alcoholic drink of the West Indian population. The cost of its original manufacture is nearly uniform everywhere, its price to the consumer varies in proportion to the rate of excise duty levied in each Colony. A comparison of the share of excise duty borne by each head of the population in different Colonies would serve to illustrate the comparative power of spending money on superfluities possessed by each Colony.

52. The following statement gives approximately the amount of excise duty on rum paid annually by each head of population in the Colonies named, and shows also the rate at which excise duty is levied in each case:—

Colony.	Amount of Excise Duty per Head per Annum.	Rate of Duty per Gallon.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
St. Lucia - - - -	4 5	2 10
Antigua - - - -	1 10	2 6
Dominica - - - -	1 10	2 0
Barbados - - - -	1 8	1 0

The comparison between St. Lucia and Antigua (where there is only a small difference between the rates of the duty) is most striking.

53. It is not difficult to assign reasons for the comparative well being which I believe to exist among the peasantry of this Island. In the first place, the population is small in proportion to the extent of land; and in the second place, the land is more sub-divided, *i.e.*, there are fewer large estates and more small holdings than in other Colonies of the same class.

54. I believe that the development of the agricultural resources of St. Lucia, and the happiness of the mass of its people would be greatly promoted by a gradual sub-division of the unoccupied lands among small proprietors working their own holdings or personally supervising a few labourers. The greater part of the coast and valley lands are already owned by large proprietors. Under conditions, which unfortunately do not exist at present, these lands might doubtless be profitably worked on a large scale. But away from the coast line there are thousands of acres of land, either belonging to the Crown or abandoned by their owners,

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which, by their soil and conformation are best suited for the cultivation of articles of produce such as cocoa, tobacco, spices, fruit, &c., which can be successfully cultivated on a small scale.

55. I feel sure that the true welfare of this Colony will depend in a very great measure on the judicious administration of the lands I refer to.

56. The West Indian negro peasant possesses in a fairly strong degree the instinct of property; this is an instinct which can and should be turned to good account.

57. A report on the general condition and prospects of St. Lucia would be incomplete without a mention of the port of Castries. The harbour is easy of access, is perfectly safe at all times of the year, and could, I believe, be easily defended. As a coaling station or a depôt for the transfer of goods it possesses greater advantages than any other port in the British Lesser Antilles. It could be further improved at a trifling cost.

58. I annex a tabular statement compiled from the Blue Books for the period between 1874 and 1878, giving in a comparative form the most important statistics for each year of that period.

59. With regard to the St. Lucia central factory I will only state here that there is good reason to hope that the difficulties and misfortunes that have hitherto attended the undertaking, are now in a great measure overcome. At the close of this year's working, I believe that I shall be able to report results that will substantiate the above remark.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Major Geo. C. Strahan, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL STATEMENT for the years 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878.

Year.	Revenue inclusive of special Funds.	Revenue exclusive of special Funds.	Expenditure inclusive of special Funds.	Expenditure exclusive of special Funds.	Treasury Balance on 31st December.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Quantity of Sugar exported.	Quantity of Logwood exported.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	lbs.	tons.
1874 -	28,380	20,761	33,242	24,268	4,535	133,006*	146,858	13,374,060	306
1875 -	30,146	25,258	30,454	25,333	7,919	150,740*	158,886	14,832,900	1,587
1876 -	29,879	27,441	32,671	29,242	5,875	106,692	143,717	11,522,668†	4,126
1877 -	30,243	28,265	31,160	27,964	5,447	110,588	178,734	12,227,880†	3,530
1878 -	36,569	28,262	41,167	32,646	1,499	108,264	151,464	12,720,500†	1,988

* These amounts include the value of the machinery imported for the central factory stated to be 49,102*l.* Deducting this special item, the ordinary imports of the years 1874 and 1875 would be 120,003*l.* and 116,641*l.* respectively.

† Including sugar made at central factory.

Comparative Statistical Statement—*continued.*

Year.	Quantity of Cocoa exported.	Land under Cultivation.	Birth-rate per thousand.	Death-rate per thousand.	Estimated Population on 31st December.	Number on Rolls of Schools.	Summary Convictions.	Convictions before Superior Courts.	Sugar made at Central Factory.	Quantity of Canes used.
	lbs.	acres.							tons.	tons.
1874 -	255,614	no return.	42·6	28·8	33,630	2,566	797	24	nil.	nil.
1875 -	277,172	no return.	42·5	24·9	34,221	2,705	603	22	nil.	nil.
1876 -	399,030	24,596	43·9	25·5	34,848	2,748	638	48	760	14,610
1877 -	243,476	27,578	42·8	24·8	35,474	3,081	778	39	724	10,390
1878 -	511,272	27,578	40·3	26·5	36,543	3,149	939	32	660 in 1879 1,000 (estimate).	12,953 in 1879 15,000 (estimate).

ST. VINCENT.

No. 8.

Administrator LABORDE to Lieutenant-Governor DUNDAS, C.M.G.

Government House, St. Vincent,
February 24, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1878, and to submit the following report.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. The only change made in taxation in the past year was the imposition of a duty of 20 per cent. on the duties levied under the Import Tariff Act of 1875. The Ordinance levying this additional duty came into operation on the 4th of October last, and it is limited in its duration to the 31st December next. Its special object is to raise funds for the erection of new hospital buildings. No alteration was made in the fees of office.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the year was 33,497*l.*, namely:—

	£
From the taxes for general purposes -	28,843
„ „ immigration purposes -	3,189
„ „ the town of Kingstown -	1,465

The revenue of 1877 was 32,439*l.*, namely:—

From the taxes for general purposes -	27,859
„ „ immigration purposes -	3,167
„ „ the town of Kingstown -	1,413

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The revenue of 1878 was, therefore, 1,058*l.* in excess of that of 1877, but 615*l.* were the produce of the additional duties on imported goods.

4. The expenditure of 1878 was 36,244*l.*, thus appropriated:—

	£
For general purposes - - -	34,790
„ immigration purposes - - -	582
„ town of Kingstown - - -	872

In 1877 the expenditure was 30,163*l.*, namely:—

For general purposes - - -	28,754
„ immigration purposes - - -	615
„ town of Kingstown - - -	794

5. The increase in 1878 was due mainly to the payment of 3,000*l.* to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. The Government had agreed to pay to the Company incorporated under that style in 1869 an annual subsidy of 800*l.* for 10 years from the time their lines were connected with the other West Indian Colonies, America, and Europe, and while through communication was maintained in this Colony. Interruptions occurred in the communication, and the subsidy was only paid for nine months in 1872–73. In 1875 the Company which had been incorporated in 1874 under the same style, and which had acquired the rights of the former Company, made application to be recognised by this Government, and that the term of 10 years in which the subsidy was to be paid should be computed from April 1874. This proposition was agreed to, but the law to give effect to it was not passed, from unavoidable causes, until 1878, and the subsidy for three years and nine months, from April 1874 to 31st December 1877, became a charge on the revenue of the year 1878. In addition to this payment of arrears, the sum of 800*l.* for the year's subsidy was also paid.

6. On works, roads, and bridges the outlay was 1,347*l.*, and for educational purposes 613*l.*, in excess of the year 1877.

7. The foregoing, with an additional charge of 105*l.* on the pension list, and increased aid to the extent of 170*l.* to the hospital, cause the excess of expenditure in the past year.

8. The expenses of the immigration department were small in 1878, because no immigrants were introduced, there were no applicants for back passage, and but few re-indentures on bounty were entered into.

9. The expenditure of the town of Kingstown for ordinary purposes and for the maintenance of the waterworks during the year amounted to 872*l.*, and the difference, 593*l.*, between that sum and its revenue of 1,465*l.* went in reduction of its debt to the general revenue for advances made for the construction of the works for its water supply.

10. A statement of assets and liabilities, showing the financial position of the Colony at the 1st of January 1879, is annexed. ST. VINCENT.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
General cash balance from 1877	8,101	14	3	Due to depositors in savings bank	5,420	15	9
In hands of Crown Agents	153	15	11	Due to immigration fund	4,242	4	11
Advances to be recouped, viz.:—				Due to town of Kingstown (current account)	105	9	2
To sufferers by flood in September 1875	4	0	0	Due to Commissioners of Public Lands, &c.	392	11	4
To town of Kingstown (waterworks account)	5,255	1	5	Surplus of assets	3,353	10	5
	£13,514	11	7		£13,514	11	7

Public Debt.

11. The general revenue became debtor to the savings bank in the sum of 3,000*l.*, applied in payment of the arrears of subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. The general revenue is charged with the payment of interest, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, on all deposits in the savings bank, whether the deposits are applied to its use or not; therefore no additional expense is incurred by this application of the 3,000*l.*

12. The town remained in debt to the general revenue at the 31st December in the sum of 5,150*l.*

Military Expenditure.

13. Under this head the small sum of 41*l.* was expended in paying the garrison adjutant for his charge of the magazines, and of the military stores, and for the expenses of keeping the arms in order.

14. The Imperial Government paid the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor, 1,300*l.*

Public Works.

15. The expenditure for works and buildings was not stinted. The bridge over the Calliaqua River was completed and opened for traffic in March. The erection of the bridge over the Colonarie River was commenced, and carried nearly to completion by the end of the year. This bridge will be opened for public use in a week or two. On this work 2,224*l.* were expended in 1878; a sum of 784*l.* having been spent in 1877 in the purchase and freight from England of the iron-work and other incidents attendant on placing it on the spot. Much credit is due to Mr. Osment, the Colonial engineer, for the manner in which these bridges have been constructed. He has not spared himself either from exposure to the climate or from hard work in the superintendence of them. Their appearance of solidity gives the impression that they will remain for years as evidence of his ability and skill in works of this description.

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16. One of the buildings in the hospital grounds was thoroughly repaired, at a cost of 496*l.*, in accordance with the plan approved by the Secretary of State. Tenders were invited for the erection of a commodious stone building which it is proposed to erect in these grounds in lieu of the old and incommodious rooms hitherto used.

17. The tenders which were received were excessive, and nothing could be done towards carrying out this work in the past year. Now that the Colonarie Bridge is near completion, and the Colonial engineer is about to be relieved of his close supervision of it, he may be able to undertake the erection of the new hospital.

18. An old ruin of masonry adjoining the Government offices in Kingstown was rebuilt and converted into the post office. The building lately used as a post office being taken up for repair, and conversion into an office for the Colonial engineer upstairs, and below into a workshop and store-room in connexion with his department.

19. Possession was given to me of the land presented to the Colony for a public cemetery by the Hon. Mr. Porter, a member of the Executive Council of the Colony, and the deed of conveyance was duly executed and registered. This munificent gift cannot but be appreciated by the community, and the donor's generosity will ever be remembered. The expenditure incurred in respect of this cemetery was trifling, being only for the preparation of the title deeds and for some preliminary preparations for enclosing it. It is in contemplation to spend in the present year some 400*l.* in the purchase of iron railings and gates for enclosing the front or southern side, and in preparing the ground for use as a cemetery.

Legislation.

20. The Legislative Council, which was formed under Her Majesty's Order in Council, published in this Colony on the 3rd day of December 1877, was summoned to meet, and was duly inaugurated by his Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Dundas, C.M.G., on the 26th day of January 1878.

21. This Council bestowed much time and consideration on legislation during the year. Its attention was given to 49 Ordinances, principally for the consolidation and improvement of the laws. Of these Ordinances, 40 became law, subject to disallowance by Her Majesty, and 22 received Her Majesty's gracious confirmation within the year.

22. Although these Ordinances contained many and most valuable improvements in the laws and in some cases remission of taxation to a small extent, there was only one which added to the taxation. This was the Ordinance to impose an additional duty on imported goods for a limited time, *i.e.*, until the end of the year 1879. As previously mentioned, under the head of "Taxes, &c.," this Ordinance was passed to raise funds for the erection of a suitable building for a public hospital in Kingstown, the want of which has been very much felt.

Councils.

23. There was no addition or change in the Executive Council. Mr. John Gregg Simmons was appointed to the Legislative Council, in the place of the late Mr. Cowie, on the 6th of February, and was confirmed therein by Her Majesty on the 8th of April 1878.

Civil Establishment.

24. There were some changes in the civil establishment during 1878. Lieutenant-Governor Dundas, C.M.G., went on leave of absence on the 28th of March. His Excellency subsequently returned to Barbados, to assume the administration of the Government of the Windward Islands, under his commission as Lieutenant-Governor thereof, during the absence on leave of His Excellency Major Strahan, C.M.G., the Governor-in-Chief. Upon Lieutenant-Governor Dundas' departure, on the 28th of March, I was placed in the administration of this Government, and continued in this charge. Mr. Newton Browne, who had been confidential clerk to the Governor, and clerk to the Colonial Secretary, was made Colonial Postmaster, retaining, also, the former of his offices, and Mr. Alexander Allen was appointed clerk to the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Charles H. Collymore was promoted from a clerkship in the Audit Office in Barbados to be Treasury Accountant; and Mr. George W. Browne, from the Revenue Department in that Island, to the office of Landing Waiter and Surveyor of Shipping. Two vacancies in the Excise Department were filled by the appointment of Mr. Isaac Dowers and Mr. Samuel Spencer, the former having been a corporal in the police force. The Colony lost the valuable services of Doctor Galgey, the medical officer of the Leeward district, who resigned his appointment for the purpose of settling in Europe, but who subsequently accepted office in St. Lucia. Early in this year Doctor Latour arrived from England to fill the office resigned by Doctor Galgey. An addition was made to the establishment by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Ross, A.M., as master of the grammar school, which was opened about the month of March. Mr. Edward S. Durrant was appointed keeper of the prison, vice Mr. A. S. McKenzie, deceased.

Pensions.

25. The pension list had an additional charge of 105*l.* added to it for Doctor William Cumming, a medical officer, who was compelled from ill health to retire from the service.

Population and Health.

26. There were 1,721 children born alive in 1878, that is, 877 males and 844 females. There were 104 still births. The birth rate was 43 per thousand of the population. The deaths (excluding the still born) numbered 1,090, being 27 per thousand. The addition to the population, from excess of births over deaths,

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was 631 ; and the population of the Colony, based on the census of 1871, with the increase shown by the annual registration, may be set down as 40,708 at the close of 1878.

27. The mortality among infants under one year of age was 24 per cent., and of all ages under 15 years, 52 per cent. There were fewer deaths of male than female infants, and also of male than female children under 15 years.

28. The illegitimate births, as usual, exceeded the legitimate, being over 53 per cent.

29. The marriages were 199 in number, and below the average of previous years.

30. There was no epidemic, and the health of the Colony was fair.

Savings Banks, &c.

31. The number of depositors in this bank continues increasing in each year. At the close of 1877 there were 576 depositors having 5,032*l.* on deposit, and at the corresponding period of 1878 there were 672 depositors, having 5,416*l.* on deposit.

32. There are five friendly societies in connexion with the Anglican Church, numbering 948 persons; and there is one in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists, having 183 members.

33. The persons paying direct taxes in the past year numbered 4,530. These are persons who are taxed on incomes, and on the lands, carriages, and animals which they possess. Animals used solely for agricultural purposes are excluded.

Education.

34. A grammar school was opened early in 1878 in the town of Kingstown. The want of such a school had long been felt, and its establishment was gladly welcomed. A master having first class testimonials for ability and for aptitude in the management and teaching of children, was engaged from Scotland. His school has been fairly attended, and hopes are entertained that under his care the school will give satisfaction and prove a valuable institution.

35. The schools for the people receiving aid from public funds numbered 61 in 1877, and 64 in 1878. The average number of scholars attending them was 3,273 in the former, and 3,661 in the latter year. There was, therefore, an increase in 1878 of three schools, and of 388 scholars.

36. The State aid to the latter class of schools was in 1877 1,313*l.*, and in 1878 1,501*l.* The school fees were in the respective years 469*l.* and 475*l.*, and the voluntary contributions 602*l.* and 190*l.* Thus the total expense of these schools in 1877 was stated to be 2,385*l.*, and in 1878 2,167*l.*, a decrease in the latter year of 218*l.*, though there were more schools open, with a larger attendance of children. On examining the returns of 1877, in order to ascertain the cause of this, I observe that a sum quite equal to this difference was expended in the building of a new

Wesleyan school house in Chateaubelair, and in enlarging other school houses belonging to this mission. It is, however, apparent that these schools are being made more dependent each year on State aid, the voluntary contributions being steadily on the decrease.

Shipping.

37. The sailing vessels entered and cleared at the port of Kingstown, the only port of entry in the Colony, were not as many as in 1877, as the following table shows:—

	1877.		1878.		
No. of Vessels.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.	No. of Vessels.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.
Entered, 338 - -	21,280	1,786	325	20,486	1,644
Cleared, 340 - -	20,742	1,776	316	20,303	1,764

Only one steam vessel entered and cleared. This was a small vessel from London to Jamaica, which called in to land a portion of her cargo.

Imports and Exports.

38. The gross value of imported goods was 150,397*l.*, and of exported goods 161,557*l.* The value of the imports on which duty was paid was 136,775*l.*, of goods free of duty 11,134*l.*, and of articles entered for export 2,488*l.* The value of the produce of the Colony exported was 157,540*l.*, and of goods of other countries 4,017*l.*

39. The imports from Great Britain were valued at 68,048*l.*, and the exports to that country at 144,390*l.* The imports and exports from and to the British West Indies were respectively of the value of 69,729*l.* and 8,690*l.* British North America furnished goods to the value of 5,105*l.*, and received goods to the value of 4,668*l.*

40. Goods of the value of 3,771*l.* were received from the United States, and exports to the value of 1,020*l.* were shipped for that country. Other foreign countries, chiefly in the West Indies, sent goods to the value of 1,256*l.*, and took goods hence of the value of 2,789*l.*

41. The value of the imports in 1878 was greater than in 1877, but the value of the exports was less. This decrease is owing to the diminished value of the produce of the Colony in the latter year.

Agriculture.

42. The sugar crop of the year 1878 scarcely differed in quantity from that of 1877. The crop in both years was small, not exceeding 8,610 hogsheads. The rum produced in 1878 was more than in 1877, but the molasses was less. There was hardly

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any difference between the two years in the arrowroot crop, but the difference, trifling as it was, was against the last year. Cocoa, cotton, and spices were also less in quantity. The value of these products in 1877 was 166,381*l.*, in 1878 156,758*l.* There was no alteration in wages, and no variation to mention in the prices of food.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

43. The whale fishing among the Islands of the Grenadines is still conducted by a few enterprising inhabitants. They were not so successful in their catch in the last year, having only taken 581 barrels. Very few American whalers have fished of late in the waters of this Government.

Prisons and Prisoners.

44. The statistical returns on this subject vary slightly from those of 1877. The commitments to prison in 1878 were less by 50, and for penal imprisonment less by 40. For debt, 25 more persons were imprisoned, and for safe custody to await trial or on remand, 35 less. Of the persons committed for penal imprisonment, 84 (the same number as in the previous year) had been committed once; 90 (in the previous year 56) had been committed twice; and (48 in the previous year 43) had been committed three or more times. Nine persons were sentenced for five years or more; six for periods varying between one and five years; five for periods more than three and less than 12 months; and 235 for three months or less.

45. The sanitary condition of the prison was good; the average daily number of sick on the surgeon's list was six. There was one death of a male prisoner from the accidental falling in upon him of stones in a quarry in which he was at work.

46. The average daily number of prisoners was 45; and the cost of the prison was 548*l.*, exclusive of 350*l.*, the cost of the establishment.

47. Effect was given to the agreement entered into between this Government and that of Tobago for the exchange of prisoners. Six men who had been sentenced to death but whose sentences had been commuted, were received from Tobago to undergo their imprisonment in this Colony.

Crime.

48. The cases brought before the police courts numbered 3,049 in 1878. Convictions were obtained in 1,190 cases, 378 were dismissed on the merits, 1,453 fell through for want of prosecution, and 28 were sent for trial in the higher court.

49. In the superior court 48 persons were presented. Ten persons were not prosecuted, judgment was given in favour of 20, and 18 were convicted and sentenced by the court to various terms of penal imprisonment.

50. The criminal statistics presented very much the same features as in 1877.

Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

51. In consequence of the buildings of the Colonial Hospital being in a very dilapidated condition, and to permit of their repair and the erection of a large and properly arranged hospital on the site of one of them, a building formerly used as the commissariat stores is temporarily occupied as the hospital. This building is near the sea beach in a small bay to the west, and within a mile of the town of Kingstown.

52. There were 21 male and 16 female patients remaining in the hospital at the end of 1877, and in the year under report 315 males and 161 females were admitted. The total number of patients under treatment was 513, and the daily average 47.

53. As usual, ulcer cases were the most numerous, but diarrhœa, dropsy, and phthisis were the principal causes of death.

54. At the commencement of the year there were eight male and six female inmates in the lunatic asylum. Three males and one female were admitted, two males were discharged, and one male and one female died, leaving at the end of the year exactly the same number of each sex in the asylum.

General Remarks.

55. The rainfall recorded at Government House in 1878 was 99·22 inches. The thermometer marked the extremes of 72° and 92°, the mean being 73° and 87°. These are average records of the rainfall and temperature.

56. In conclusion, and to show in a few words how the Colony has advanced in late years, I will quote a paragraph from my speech to the Legislative Council at the opening of the session in this month.

"Looking back to past years, and comparing the condition of the Colony then with its present condition, it is impossible not to admit that there are strongly marked evidences of its material progress. There is the telegraphic communication with other countries, there is the daily internal communication by post, and by steam boat, there is the provision for the medical care of the children and the aged among the labouring class, there is the largely increased aid for the suffering poor in the hospital and asylums, and for the insane. Education for all classes has been more amply provided. Public buildings and bridges have been erected, and many other improvements have been effected for the convenience, health, and comfort of the people. If then public expenditure has increased in late years, can it be alleged that it is not naturally consequent on the requirements of a Colony growing in numbers, civilization, and material prosperity."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Dundas, C.M.G.

&c. &c. &c.

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 9.

Governor Berkeley, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
April 25, 1879.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you President Moir's report on the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the past year. The Blue Book did not accompany Mr. Moir's report. It will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received from St. Kitts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) George Berkeley,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book for the year 1878.

Duties, Licenses.

The reduction in the excise duty to which I briefly referred in my last year's report, that is to say, from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* per gallon, was effected in January 1878, and the result has been better than I anticipated, for while in the year 1877 the duty paid on rum for home consumption.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amounted to - - -	2,468	7	5
And the liquor licenses to - -	771	5	0
	3,239	12	5

	£	*s.*	*d.*			
The duty in 1878 was -	1,784	15	6			
And the licenses - -	1,428	15	0			
				3,213	10	6
Showing the small deficit of - -				26	1	11

While if the increase in the import duty paid on rum legitimately introduced in the latter of these two years were added to the receipts of this branch of the revenue, we shall find that an actual increase was secured, thus:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duty on rum in 1878 - -	118	15	4
„ „ 1877 - -	13	2	0
Increase - - -	105	13	4

From which deducting the above deficit of 26*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, it may be fairly deduced that owing to the reduction in the excise and import duty a nett increase of 79*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* was obtained, and above all, the demoralising effects of the smuggling trade have been removed, and the illicit trade itself, at all events in rum, almost, if not entirely, abolished.

2. Consequently on this reduction in the excise duty the import duty on rum, gin, and bay rum was also reduced to the same charge of 1*s.* per gallon, and although it might be inferred from the above returns that the consumption of spirits has largely increased, such a conclusion would not, I believe, be correct, and no such results are apparent judging from the conduct and the behaviour of the people. It is only a corroboration of the opinion that excessive imports on what many consider a necessary article of consumption, will lead to its being procured by illegitimate means, especially when facilities exist, as they do in this Presidency, for such a procedure, to the injury of the local manufacturer and the revenue of the Island.

3. The only other alteration was effected by striking out the last license enumerated in the schedule to Act No. 4 of 1875, by which the charge for retailing liquors was slightly increased under the authority of Act No. 6 of 1878.

Finance.

4. It is agreeable to be in a position to give reasons for a surplus revenue, instead of having to explain the cause of deficiencies, or the absence of progress for a succession of years. The revenue of this Presidency for the year 1878 in all important points was very satisfactory, exceeding the estimates in almost every branch, the excise duty being the exception, which, however, was balanced, as already explained, by the increased number of liquor licenses taken out.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The estimated revenue for 1878 was -	26,181	16	8
But it reached - - - -	32,034	6	4
The estimated expenditure for the same period was - - - - -	27,232	16	11
The actual expenditure was - -	27,354	0	3

5. This favourable result is due principally to the rainfall during the past year having been above the average, as from the returns I have received from seventeen localities in the Island, I find that the average was 89 inches, and that the export of sugar reached 13,684 hhds., while in 1877 it amounted to only 7,515 hhds. The particulars of the monthly rainfall have been furnished in a separate letter.

6. This increased export of our staples had the natural influence on other branches of revenue. The import duties rose from 12,000*l.* to 16,000*l.*, and the export and tonnage duties advanced in due proportion.

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7. On the 29th of June 3,000*l.* of the money borrowed for general purposes from the immigration fund was repaid, and at the close of the year the balance of 4,753*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* was replaced to the credit of that fund, and the whole 7,753*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* deposited in the Colonial Bank at interest.

Debt.

8. The only liability of the Presidency then now existing for which no special provision has been made, is one of 1,313*l.* due to debenture holders on account of the Basseterre Building Loan, to which I have referred in previous reports.

Public Works.

9. Owing to the heavy rains much damage was done to bridges and retaining walls, and heavy washes injured the roads and deposited large quantities of sand and earth upon them, so that supplementary votes of money were applied for and granted; the cost of these works and repairs exceeded the previous year's expenditure by 705*l.* Repairs were also done to the several piers and some of the churches, and the Rectory of St. Peter's, to Government House, and Cunningham Hospital, &c. The whole amount thus expended on the roads, bridges, and other public works reached 3,069*l.*, and it is hoped that many useful works will be completed during the present year.

Legislation.

10. Ten Acts passed during the year received the Royal Assent, four of which had reference to the Excise, Import, and Liquor License Acts to which I have already adverted to above; one to the redistribution of medical districts; another authorised the General Legislature of the Leeward Islands to pass laws relating to the superannuation public of officers, and for the creation of a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of such officers; the usual Supplementary Appropriation Act; and lastly the Act to amend and simplify the Legislature was passed on the 10th of June, and came into operation on the 20th of November by virtue of a Proclamation issued by the Governor on the 14th of October 1878. This last Act, which was moved and seconded by elected members of the Legislative Assembly, and supported by two others of the elected members, changes the former constitution of the Presidency to that of a Crown Colony, and was adopted by a majority of eleven to six of the members present, one elected and two nominated members having been absent.

11. The Legislative Council now consists of five official and five unofficial members appointed by the Queen, which power of appointment may be exercised by the Governor by instructions or warrants under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, or be delegated to him by letters patent under the Great Seal. The Council is presided over by the Governor, or in his absence by a member appointed by him in writing. Five members form a

quorum, and the Council has and exercises all the powers, authorities, and rights of the former Legislative Assembly.

Population.

12. During the year there were registered 1,245 births and 957 deaths. Still-births being registered both as births and deaths numbered 115. Setting these aside we have 1,130 births and 842 deaths, showing a gain of 288 against 148 in 1877; the average increase in the five years ending 1877 having been 209.

13. Assuming the floating population of the Presidency during 1878 to have been 29,250, these returns would give a birth rate of 38 and a death rate of 28 per thousand.

14. The number of deaths of children under one year is very large, for omitting still-births there were 280, which shows a death rate of 33⅓ per cent. of all the deaths for the year. Among the principal causes to which this result may be attributed are, 1st. Neglect of infant life among the lower classes; 2ndly. The necessary absence of mothers at labour during the greater part of the day, the infants, perforce, being left to the care of children of an age little in advance of their own, to be fed on pap too often of an unwholesome character; and 3rdly. The great prevalence of inherited disease of a syphilitic nature, to which perhaps may be added the fact that of the 1,246 births no less than 778 are returned as illegitimate, the parentage of whom on one side is too often doubtful, while the mothers under such circumstances may be credited with but little solicitude for the welfare of their offspring.

15. It is, however, worthy of notice that, while there was an actual surplus of births over deaths among the black and coloured, there occurred an excess of five deaths over the births of the white population.

The following table illustrates the foregoing facts:—

—	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Black.	White.	Coloured.	Total.
Births - -	437	693	906	63	161	1,130
Still-births - -	29	86	99	1	15	115
Deaths - -	—	—	658	68	116	842

16. Dr. Boon reports that "during 1878 the health of the Island "has been good. The death rate for the first three-quarters was "remarkably even, being 241, 247, and 241 respectively. In the "last quarter it fell to 228. There was no epidemic except one "of influenza in the third quarter, which did not prove fatal in "many cases. Diarrhœa among the children and dysentery "among the adults prevailed as usual, and towards the end of "the year there were a great many cases of sloughing ulcer of "unusually severe type. Below is a condensed table showing "the number of deaths from each cause"

St. Kitts.

Zymotic diseases	51
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of variable seat	62
Tubercular diseases	78
Diseases of nervous system (non-tubercular)	170
Diseases of heart and blood vessels	53
Diseases of respiratory organs (non-tubercular)	56
Diseases of stomach and liver	221
Diseases of kidneys	22
Childbirth—diseases of the womb, &c.	6
Rheumatism—diseases of bones, joints, &c.	13
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c.	25
Malformations	0
Atrophy	8
Premature birth	11
Old age	34
Sudden	0
Violence, privation, and intemperance	14
Still-born	115
Cause not specified	8
Total	957

17. There were 3,216 children under 9 years of age who were attended and treated medically by the district medical officers; of these 240 died, and the majority of the rest had either recovered or were under treatment at the end of the year.

18. The cases of successful vaccination registered were 790, against an average of 556 for the four preceding years. Deducting the still-births and deaths of children under one year from the total births, it will be found that 851 children remain, so that making allowance for sickness and insusceptibility, the success in vaccination last year may be considered satisfactory.

Civil Establishment.

19. Mr. Edwin D. Baynes, junior, was appointed first clerk in the President's office, vice Mr. J. G. Piguenit, who left for Dominica in the capacity of a district magistrate, and Mr. John Chambers having been appointed a landing waiter in the Treasury Department, Mr. Merrit Evelyn took his place in the President's Office.

In consequence of the death of the first landing waiter and the retirement of Mr. Wilson, the juniors were promoted, and Mr. H. G. King appointed to the office of fourth landing waiter. Mr. Mackinnon having been removed from the public service, Mr. O. F. Plagemann was appointed to act as Surveyor of Roads and Superintendent of Public Works. Brigade Sergeant-Major Thom was appointed Inspector of Police, vice Mr. Thompson promoted to Antigua.

Education.

20. The Federal Education Act continues to be viewed favourably. Two of the 25 schools receiving Government aid have

been advanced from third to second class, so that there are now two first, nine second, and ten third class schools, while four have failed, but are recommended for exceptional aid.

The grants made to these schools during the last three years have been as follows:—

Year.	Class Grants.	Capitation Grants.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 -	261 5 0	316 5 6	577 10 6
1877 -	280 0 0	326 4 0	606 4 0
1878 -	295 0 0	331 14 0	626 14 0

The average for capitation was in the last four years 1,327, 1,525, 1,558, and 1,537 respectively. The total number of scholars on the books was 2,400 in 1878.

Imports and Exports.

21. The total declared value of imports was—

	£
In 1878 - - - -	173,117
In 1877 - - - -	134,224
Increase of - -	38,893

Imports from	1877.	1878.
	£	£
Great Britain - - - -	63,040	85,805
British West Indies - - - -	17,250	19,252
British North America - - -	5,015	11,134
Foreign countries - - - -	11	73
Foreign West Indies - - -	3,721	5,538
United States of America - - -	45,187	51,315
	134,224	173,117

22. The exports, as has been stated above, took a great step in advance of the previous year; the staples shipped being as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	Hhds.	Puns.	Gals.
1877 -	7,515	1,019	250,327
1878 -	13,684	951	549,602

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23. These articles were exported to the countries named in the following table, at the specified declared values set opposite to each :—

	1877.			1878.		
	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain - -	102,635	8,452	—	136,738	8,409	—
British West Indies -	47	95	255	35	113	316
British North America -	686	10	6,625	1,136	48	9,217
Foreign West Indies -	1,012	1,141	—	931	466	—
United States of America	8,275	—	5,345	20,757	—	10,500
	112,655	9,698	12,225	159,597	9,036	20,033
Totals - -	134,578			188,666		

The other Island produce exported was as follows :—

Year.	Salt.	Potatoes.	Arrowroot.	Tous les Mois.	Tamarinds.	Pickles.
	Brls.	Brls.	lbs.	lbs.	Gals.	Gals.
1877 -	6,374	4,214	1,200	15,900	6	3,294
1878 -	683	643	2,200	18,855	96	7,592

24. The total value of exports for the two last years was as follows :—

	£
In 1877 - - - -	147,164
In 1878 - - - -	202,484

Shipping.

25. The tonnage of sailing vessels inwards was—

Years.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Totals.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	654	23,574	295	4,598	949	28,172	4,107
1878 -	830	32,939	248	9,408	1,078	42,357	5,027

The tonnage of sailing vessels outwards was—

Years.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Totals.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	797	21,579	145	6,590	942	28,169	4,124
1878 -	874	33,616	192	7,133	1,066	40,749	5,016

Gaols and Prisoners.

26. The decrease in the number of persons committed during last year is gratifying, especially as each class is similarly affected—

Year.	Committed in the Year.		
	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.
1877 - -	378	215	49
1878 - -	298	102	18

Of whom there had been previously committed—

Year.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or oftener.
1877 - -	89	14	73
1878 - -	68	46	32

There was only one death, the cause being certified as consumption.

Criminal Statistics.

27. The number of summary convictions in 1877 was 2,052, against 1,912 in 1878; the most notable feature being that while in the former year 229 persons were convicted of prædial larceny there were only 35 in the latter year, and that while 307 persons were convicted of offences against property other than prædial in 1877, the number fell to 208 in 1878, showing the beneficial effect of good crops and the consequent employment of the people in continuous labour. Cases of the most trivial nature are constantly brought before the magistrate, brawling and improper language forming the great majority. The cases in the Superior Court were 30 and 31 respectively in the last two years, and no very serious crime was brought to trial.

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Hospitals.

28. The accommodation at the Cunningham Hospital was during 1878 further extended for the benefit of the poor sick by the transference of the last eight lunatics to the asylum in Antigua, so that the number of 110 was the daily average in hospital during the year. At the present moment there are 102 sick and 17 paupers in the institution.

The Sandy Point Hospital continues its useful career in relieving the larger institution of many cases from the west end of the Island.

Conclusion.

29. The manufacture of sugar for the present year is now in full operation, and the crop promises to reach, if it does not exceed, the estimate of 14,000 hogsheads, while favourable weather obtains for the growth of the young canes for next year's crop, always subject however to climatic changes of an adverse nature during the latter half of the year. Upon the whole the agricultural and commercial interests in this beautiful little Island were never in a more prosperous condition than at present, the cause for any despondency being the existing low prices realised for the staples in the English and other markets.

(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,
President.

President's Office,
7th April 1879.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
October 10, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Montserrat for 1877, with President Porter's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

SIR, Montserrat, September 28, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1877, accompanied by my report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

His Honour the
Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands,
Antigua.

Finance.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1875 -	5,077	0	0	5,265	0	0
1876 -	5,181	0	0	4,773	0	0
1877 -	5,517	0	0	5,173	0	0

Imperial Post Office receipts and remittances deducted.

The considerable excess of revenue over expenditure shown by the figures of 1877 was the result, mainly, of unusually large receipts from import duties.

The satisfactory state of the finances enabled me to expend money on desirable public objects without impairing the cash reserve of the Presidency.

Trade.

Imports.			Exports.		
£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
25,071	0	0	33,065	0	0

These amounts show a close approximation to the average of the three preceding years.

Agriculture.

I have in former reports written fully on this subject.

It may, I think, be said that proprietors and lessees of sugar properties who understand their business and attend to it, and have a sufficient amount of capital, or obtain credit on reasonable terms, are, with good seasons such as we have lately had, fairly prosperous, and the peasant landowners and renters seldom fail to thrive.

The extensive and increasing cultivation of lime trees (combined with the manufacture of lime juice) by the Montserrat Company, Limited, continues to be a gratifying and important feature in the agricultural aspect of this small tropical possession of the Crown.

Education.

In his report for 1877 the Federal Inspector of Schools writes of Montserrat,—" Marked improvement has taken place in the

MONTSERRAT. " schools of this Island, although I am bound to report that they " are still in a far from satisfactory condition."

Undoubtedly the attendance of children at the schools is irregular and uncertain, and there must be a large number of children who never attend.

This Island is an agricultural and stock-breeding and rearing country, and the labour of children from the age of seven years is an important agent in the business of life.

Small children may be seen morning and evening steadily and regularly fetching, for family use, water from the springs and wells, and tying out, bringing home, or driving to the drinking place the horned stock, ponies, sheep, and goats possessed by nearly every labourer in the Island. Children carry from the provision grounds, and take round for sale, the produce—vegetables and fruit—of their parents' land.

As the children grow bigger their labour is sought by the planters, for whom they work from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., earning good wages (which swell the family income) in the grass gang under pretty sharp supervision.

Grass and other fodder is brought to the mule and cattle pens by these children, who also drive the mules and donkeys carrying canes to the mill and boxes of manure on to the land. Other useful work, both in and out of crop time, is done by the small gang.

The children are healthy, saucy, good natured, and full of life and fun at the end of their day's work in the open air, and they are getting educated in the principal industry of their native land.

The labour of children in such a country as this being so valuable and useful, attendance at school cannot be expected to increase to a large extent at once. Gradual enlightenment and advance in civilization of the population generally will lead to that by degrees, especially if there be intelligent and attractive teachers, and the time of school attendance be not too long and tedious.

There is the remedy sometimes advocated of a compulsory Education Act. It might be well to consider if such a law, framed to meet the social condition of the communities constituting the Colony of the Leeward Islands, could be brought into effective operation.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 11.

Acting-Governor ANDERSON to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Gibraltar, August 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1878, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1878 amounted to 41,162*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, exclusive of a sum of 2,000*l.* realised by sale of invested surplus revenue to meet the excess of expenditure during the year.

As compared with 1877, the revenue of 1878 shows an increase of 1,316*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, which is attributable mainly to the recovery of arrears of rents of Crown properties.

The expenditure of 1878 amounted to 43,405*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and exceeded that of 1877 by 1,820*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* and the revenue of the year by 2,242*l.* The excess was caused by the construction of new public works and buildings and to sanitary improvements to Crown properties.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December 1878 were as follows :—

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Surplus revenue - - -	31,588	16	0
Cash in Colonial chests - -	332	10	7
Outstanding rents of Crown lands -	3,642	3	0
	35,563	9	7

Liabilities.

By amount overpaid on account of the Colony by the Crown agents -	1,955	1	5
Surplus balance - -	33,608	8	2

Public Works.

During the year 1878 various important works were completed, viz., the first and second portions of the new markets, the new wing at the Convent or Government House, and the extension of the public cemetery at the north front.

The new slaughter-house was commenced and considerable structural improvements were made at the civil prison and at the

GIBRALTAR. lunatic asylum, besides other sanitary improvements and repairs to Crown properties and public offices.

The total expenditure on Colonial works during 1878 was 11,523*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

The works and improvements executed by the Sanitary Commissioners during the same period were comparatively unimportant. Their cost amounted to 1,240*l.* 12*s.*, which was defrayed as follows:—613*l.* out of general sanitary purposes rates, and the remainder out of capital raised under the provisions of the Sanitary Orders in Council.

Legislation.

The only local Ordinance enacted in 1878 was—

No. 1. An Ordinance to enable the Governor of Gibraltar to prohibit the exportation of arms and other materials of war.

Civil Establishments.

The following appointments were made during the year, viz.:—

Mr. William L. Byrne to be police magistrate in the room of Colonel Mollan, C.B., exchanged.

Commander James F. Baker, R.N., to be captain of the port, consequent on the severance of the offices of senior naval officer and captain of the port.

Mr. Horatio L. Treneery, Barrister-at-Law, to be Registrar of Births, &c., and Coroner in the room of Mr. Duffield, retired on a pension.

Pensions.

The total of the pensions paid out of Colonial revenue during 1878 amounted to 2,491*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The list was relieved during the year by the death of two pensioners drawing 169*l.* 10*s.*, and there were added to it two pensions amounting to 164*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

Population.

A census of the population was taken on the 31st December 1878.

The total of the civil population on that date was 18,014, including 1,823 aliens on temporary permits. The fixed population being in the following proportions, viz.:—

Males - - - -	7,745
Females - - - -	8,446

The total of the military population was 7,707, in the following proportions, viz.:—

Males - - - -	6,524
Females - - - -	1,183

making the gross civil and military population on the last day of the year 1878, 25,721 persons.

The number of births, deaths, and marriages during the year was as follows :—

Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
495	472	128

The death rate per 1,000 was 26·21.

Shipping.

There has been a steady increase in the number of vessels entering this port, which is acquiring considerable importance as a coaling station.

The return of the year exhibits the following results :—

——	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Arrivals of—			
Sailing vessels - -	1,555	212,434	11,233
Steam vessels - -	3,345	2,357,345	87,301
Totals - -	4,900	2,569,779	98,534
Clearances of—			
Sailing vessels - -	1,510	206,802	10,691
Steam vessels - -	3,329	2,351,903	86,911
Totals -	4,839	2,558,705	97,602

Comparing this return with that of 1877, it shows an increase of 301 steamers and 254,267 tons, and a decrease of 193 sailing vessels and 71,492 tons, thus leaving in the total number and tonnage of both descriptions of vessels collectively an increase of 108 vessels, 182,775 tons, 2,852 men, crew, in the year 1878.

General Remarks.

There has been an absence of epidemic disease, and the state of the public health throughout the year was good.

Much has been done towards providing improved house accommodation for all classes, and to obtain a fresh supply of water for domestic purposes.

These matters which so closely affect the health and the well-being of the community continue to engage the attention of the Government and the Sanitary Commissioners.

The rainfall in the course of the year, as registered, was 34·71 inches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. ANDERSON, Lt.-General,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 12.

Governor Sir ARTHUR BORTON, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir M. E. HICKS BEACH.

SIR, Palace, Valletta, May 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1878, to which I append, for your information, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
SIR, May 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1879, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

The following three Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1878:—

1. "To prevent some doubts which may arise in the execution "of certain proceedings;"
2. "For applying a sum not exceeding 20,770*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* to the "service of the year 1877;" and
3. "For applying a sum not exceeding 109,860*l.* to the service "of the year 1879."

Finance.

1. The gross revenue for 1878 was:—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Local - - - - -	181,820	6	7¾
Crown Agents for the Colonies in London -	7,715	7	0
	189,535	13	7¾
2. The average revenue for the five years preceding 1878, after deducting all exceptional items, was - - -	169,424	2	11¾
Deducting from the gross revenue of 1878 the products of land sales - -	1,275	12	10
and sale of Government property - -	209	17	9¼
	1,485	10	7¼

(which are for investment in consols) the revenue of 1878 will be 188,050*l.* 3*s.* 0½*d.*, or 18,626*l.* 0*s.* 0¾*d.* above the average revenue of the five preceding years, and 15,996*l.* 5*s.* 11¼*d.* above that of 1877.

3. The provision for meeting the demands of 1878 was:—

Estimated Expenditure.

——	General Estimates.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - -	76,437 17 2	1,231 6 6	77,669 3 8
Exclusive of establishments - - -	80,901 0 0	27,766 11 10	108,667 11 10
	157,338 17 2	28,997 18 4	186,336 15 6

Actual Expenditure.

——	General Estimates.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.
Establishments - -	75,143 19 3½	1,118 8 6	76,262 7 9½
Exclusive of establishments - - -	74,912 3 0½	24,278 11 2	99,190 14 2½
	150,056 2 4	25,396 19 8	175,453 2 0

4. The general financial statement of Malta may be summarily stated as follows:—

Assets.

	£ s. d.
Balance in local treasury and with Crown Agents for the Colonies - - -	80,691 3 6½
Advances and outstanding balances - -	11,189 10 1¾
Stock in consols, calculated at 90 per cent. (say) - - - - -	191,389 1 2
	283,269 14 10¼

Debits.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Liabilities on deposit account - -	217,928 13 9	
Liabilities on Scotch Church account -	1,097 0 0	
Balance of land sales and sales of Government property - -	1,484 18 6¼	
		220,510 12 3¼
Credit balance on assets (including proceeds of land sales in consols)		62,759 2 7

Civil Establishments.

The situations of Collector of Land Revenue and Comptroller of Charitable Institutions became vacant by the retirement of Mr. G. B. Trapani, C.M.G., LL.D., and Mr. A. Pulis. These situations, pending Sir Penrose Julyan's report on the working of the Civil Establishments of this Colony, have been left vacant. The Rev. Edward A. Hardy, M.A., was appointed Chaplain to the Government in succession to the Rev. Henry White, M.A.

Several other changes of minor importance took place during the year.

Military Expenditure.

The total military expenditure incurred in the year 1878 including the sums issued on account of the Indian Expeditionary (Force) amounted to 412,715*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, of which the Colony has borne 5,000*l.*

Pensions.

The total amount of pensions on the 31st December 1878 amounted to 10,516*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil pensions - - -	10,269	17	9
Compensatory pensions - -	30	8	6
Minor pensions - - -	122	4	0
Temporary gratuity - -	70	0	0
„ pension - -	24	0	0
	10,516	10	3

The total amount of pension which lapsed on account of the death of pensioners was 482*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, and the additional pensions granted during the year amounted to 1,289*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

Population.

The population of these Islands on the 31st December 1878 was as follows:—

—	Male.	Female.	Total.	—
Malta -	66,646	66,960	133,606	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo -	9,394	9,553	18,947	
	76,040	76,513	152,553	

showing an increase of 1,471 on the population as on 31st December 1877.

The population to the square mile is, at present, as follows:—

Malta - 1,406 } exclusive of the troops and their
Gozo - 947 } families.

The number of births was 5,105; marriages, 970; and deaths, 3,634.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs statistics for 1878 show under this head the following:—

Imports.

	£		£	
Value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	819,908	against	729,536	in 1877.
And value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms -	15,116,015	„	6,261,711	„
	15,935,923	„	6,991,247	„

Exports.

	£		£	
Value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port -	160,821	against	46,442	in 1877
And value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	15,088,620	„	6,162,407	„
	15,249,441	„	6,308,849	„

The above sums refer only to articles subject to import duty in these Islands, there being no available sources from which to calculate, even roughly, the value and quantities of other imports or exports.

The quantities of dutiable articles entered for home consumption during the year 1878 are the following:—

Beer - - - -	Barili	42,010
Grain:		
Wheat - - -	Salms	105,694
Indian corn - - -	„	891
Barley - - -	„	11,985
Saggina - - -	„	3,105
Inferior - - -	„	11
Damaged - - -	„	4.996
Manufactured - -	Cantars	3.244
„ damaged -	„	311
Oil - - - -	Caffiar	60,037
Potatoes - - -	Cantars	33,520
Pulse - - - -	Salms	23,374

Seeds - - - -	Cantars	48,051
Spirits - - - -	Barili	11,843
Vinegar - - -	„	1,006
Wine:		
Superior - - -	„	1,842
Inferior - - -	„	165,441
Cattle:		
Bullocks - - -	No.	9,529
Horses - - -	„	431
Mules - - -	„	5

The duty levied on the articles above enumerated amounted to 111,511*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.*

Education.

University and Lyceums.—The number of students in the University and Lyceums in the year 1878 was as follows:—

	No.
University - - - - -	168
Lyceum of Valletta - - - -	436
Lyceum of Three Cities - - -	43
	647

The total cost of these educational establishments amounted in 1878 to 4,620*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Primary Schools.

The following table shows the number of the schools and pupils from 1850 to 1878:—

Year.	Schools.								Attendance.		
	Primary.		Infant.	Evening.	Secondary.		Sunday.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys and Girls.	Boys.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.				
1850	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	28	1,619	1,554	3,173
1855	18	18	2	1	1	—	—	40	1,904	2,045	3,949
1860	22	23	3	1	1	1	—	51	2,533	3,117	5,650
1865	28	29	3	2	1	1	3	67	2,900	3,099	5,999
1870	31	31	3	2	1	1	1	70	3,420	3,755	7,175
1875	37	37	3	2	1	1	10	91	3,759	4,036	7,795
1877	37	38	4	2	1	1	5	88	4,173	4,886	9,059
1878	37	38	4	2	1	1	8	91	4,135	4,622	8,757

The average daily attendance to school as compared with the average number of pupils on the rolls was in December 1878 as follows:—

—	On Rolls.	Daily Attendance.
Boys - -	4,135	3,630
Girls - -	4,622	3,822
	8,757	7,452

The cost of the primary schools was in 1878 5,967*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

Public Libraries.

The public libraries contain, exclusive of periodicals, the following works:—

—	Valletta.	Gozo.
	Works.	Works.
Oriental languages - - -	420	7
Latin language - - -	3,811	331
English „ - - -	2,789	166
Italian „ - - -	7,321	1,582
French „ - - -	7,176	175
Spanish and Portuguese languages	891	10
Other languages - - -	134	—
Works - -	22,542 in	2,271 in
Volumes -	44,961	5,192
Manuscripts, &c. - - -	840	—
Volumes -	45,801	5,192

Charitable Institutions.

The Hospital returns for the year 1878 supply the following information:—

CENTRAL HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1878.	Admitted during the Year 1878.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1878.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	78	1,296	85	1,140	150
Females -	71	707	76	572	117

SANTO SPIRITO HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1878.	Admitted during the Year 1878.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1878.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	27	211	26	183	42
Females -	18	152	16	115	41

HOSPITAL AT GOZO.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1878.	Admitted during the Year 1878.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1878.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	8	140	8	103	36
Females -	17	164	11	134	35

The patients in the lunatic asylum are classified as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.
(1.) Maniacal and dangerous - - -	68	64
(2.) Quite chronic - - - -	47	60
(3.) Melancholy and suicidal - - -	36	40
(4.) Idiotic, paralytic, epileptic - - -	26	24
	177	188
	365	

The following statement shows the number of persons relieved or maintained in the charitable institutions during 1878 :—

Institutions.	Number of persons relieved or maintained.	Average daily number during the Year.
Hospital of Incurables - - -	289	227
Poorhouse, Malta - - - -	873	678
Magdalen Asylum - - - -	23	15
Foundling Hospital - - - -	38	16
Poorhouse, Gozo - - - -	186	154
Orphan Asylum - - -	141	125

The average number of persons receiving out-door relief from the public funds during the year 1878 was 1,763.

The total expense of the hospitals, lunatic asylum, and the other charitable institutions (including the prison for women attached to the poorhouse at Floriana) amounted to 28,639*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

Savings Banks.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the savings banks for the last quinquennial period were as follows :—

—	Malta.		Gozo.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1874 - -	2,908	173,828 4 11	169	7,685 4 11
1875 - -	2,944	171,267 0 11	195	8,258 12 6
1876 - -	3,125	190,694 2 3	209	8,894 0 9
1877 - -	3,298	203,778 19 5	225	9,354 0 8
1878 - -	3,407	217,287 0 9	241	9,120 4 7

Monte di Pietà.

The number and amount of pledges pawned and redeemed during the last three years were as hereunder stated :—

—	Malta.		Gozo.	
	No. of Pledges.	Amount.	No. of Pledges.	Amount.
	Pawned.	£ s. d.	Pawned.	£ s. d.
1876 - -	45,138	33,251 4 10	3,959	1,599 13 10
1877 - -	50,720	35,043 11 0	4,175	1,578 10 6
1878 - -	40,060	30,934 14 2	3,630	1,563 9 4
	Redeemed.		Redeemed.	
1876 - -	45,345	32,136 5 10	4,220	1,673 14 6
1877 - -	45,214	33,273 4 4	3,981	1,570 15 5
1878 - -	45,977	34,235 17 6	3,948	1,525 11 0

Criminal Statistics.

The police returns for the year 1878 give the following results under this head :—

Offence.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons accused.	Males.	Females.	No. of Persons arrested.	No. of Persons simply cited.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Criminal Laws.								
Crimes against public tranquility	26	28	28	—	1	27	3	25
Crimes against the administration of justice, &c.	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
Crimes affecting public credit	4	5	5	—	5	—	2	3
Crimes affecting the good order of families	8	11	8	3	8	3	2	9
Crimes against the person	378	502	452	50	105	397	78	424
Crimes against property	627	926	854	72	389	537	223	703
Contempt of court	3	3	3	—	—	3	—	3
Contraventions :—								
Affecting public order	2,234	4,236	3,777	459	317	3,919	554	3,682
„ the person	484	657	620	37	22	635	97	560
„ property	34	52	46	6	1	51	9	43
Other contraventions under special ordinances	711	1,075	989	86	3	1,072	79	996
Acts of Parliament.								
Soldiers enlisting through false declaration	9	12	12	—	12	—	—	12
Soldiers deserting their regiment	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
Against Merchant Shipping Acts	1	28	28	—	28	—	—	28
Police Laws.								
Offences against the laws and regulations of police	3,275	5,102	4,862	240	5	5,097	309	4,793
Totals	7,896	12,639	11,685	954	897	11,742	1,357	11,282

Meteorological.

The following is a summary of meteorological observations taken at noon by the sanitary officers from the University Observatory, during the year 1878 :—

Latitude of Observatory - - - - - - 35° 53′ 56″ N.
Longitude of do. - - - - - - 14° 31′ 10″ E.
Elevation of do. above the level of the sea - - 191 feet.

Periods.	Mean Pressure at 32° and at Sea Level.	Mean Temperature.				Wind.					Mean relative Humidity of the Air (Saturation =100).	Rain.	Mean Amount of Cloud (0—10).
		Standard Thermometer.	Maximum Thermometer.	Minimum Thermometer.	Black-bulb Thermometer.	Mean Velocity per Hour.	Relative Proportion of.					Amount collected.	
							N.	E.	S.	W.			
	in.	°	°	°	°	miles.						in.	
From 1st to 15th January - -	30·032	55·87	58·71	51·71	110·37	4·774	6	0	5	4	84	1·58	6
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	30·015	53·33	55·79	49·38	123·59	9·758	3	2	0	11	71	1·08	6
„ 1st „ 15th February - -	30·178	55·03	57·78	50·55	129·82	6·344	5	2	4	4	72	0·85	6
„ 16th „ 28th „ - -	30·394	57·56	60·29	52·29	131·02	8·177	4	3	3	3	69	1·23	5
„ 1st „ 15th March - -	30·152	58·68	61·80	53·90	132·45	8·034	5	2	2	6	67	0·08	5
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	29·949	58·38	61·93	51·83	132·29	9·001	5	1	8	2	64	0·47	6
„ 1st „ 15th April - -	29·370	64·40	65·53	55·54	132·43	7·531	4	3	4	4	69	0·79	5
„ 16th „ 30th „ - -	29·968	64·77	65·62	57·76	132·37	9·105	5	1	2	7	66	0·07	5
„ 1st „ 15th May - -	29·927	68·25	72·65	62·10	132·35	8·711	6	3	4	2	72	0·00	3
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	30·067	73·98	78·15	66·42	136·08	4·806	6	6	3	1	66	0·00	4
„ 1st „ 15th June - -	30·037	77·65	83·30	69·47	135·83	4·696	6	3	5	1	58	0·00	2
„ 16th „ 30th „ - -	29·999	78·00	82·48	71·01	138·47	6·248	9	3	2	1	69	0·00	2
„ 1st „ 15th July - -	30·008	80·22	87·55	73·15	138·87	6·082	10	0	2	3	61	0·00	1
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	29·996	82·31	87·74	74·64	141·99	5·460	9	3	2	2	69	0·00	1
„ 1st „ 15th August - -	29·974	81·90	87·18	75·05	141·62	4·425	6	7	2	0	68	0·00	1
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	29·986	82·70	87·17	75·61	141·56	4·986	10	4	2	0	69	0·00	1
„ 1st „ 15th September- -	30·595	74·62	81·62	72·42	143·88	7·225	6	3	2	4	73	3·44	5
„ 16th „ 30th „ - -	29·956	76·83	75·72	70·99	152·15	6·596	5	3	3	4	68	0·18	5
„ 1st „ 15th October - -	30·137	75·70	78·90	68·63	151·88	3·782	2	4	9	0	69	1·20	5
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	30·678	75·64	78·34	69·77	143·50	5·604	5	1	10	0	72	0·00	5
„ 1st „ 15th November -	30·003	68·35	71·93	62·42	146·22	7·326	4	0	5	6	67	3·71	7
„ 16th „ 30th „ - -	30·067	67·76	71·47	61·98	145·87	5·802	2	3	9	1	74	0·00	8
„ 1st „ 15th December - -	29·838	60·17	63·67	54·10	145·50	6·684	4	0	2	9	68	1·48	6
„ 16th „ 31st „ - -	30·092	54·91	64·50	54·44	145·42	7·390	2	3	5	6	71	0·37	6
From 1st January to 31st December	30·059	68·62	72·49	62·71	137·73	6·606	129	60	95	81	69	16·63	4

General Remarks.

The health of the Island was good throughout the year, and there was no epidemic disease.

The comparative statement of the Customs receipts for the year 1878 showed a total of revenue collected of 123,535*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* This was the highest amount that has up to present date ever been derived from the Customs, whatever favourable circumstances may have existed to influence the collections under that head. From each item of the tariff there was derived more than the ordinary income, showing that consumption operations were effected of unusual magnitude, affecting favourably the general prosperity of the population. The largest increase of consumption was under wheat (increase, 7,620*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*), spirits (2,301*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*), bullocks (1,608*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*), barley (1,541*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*), and beer (1,401*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*). The receipts under tonnage, store-rent, and official fees were on the increase, especially the tonnage dues, the index of the shipping prosperity of the ports; whilst the depression under wine (inferior), seeds, saggina, damaged grain, and potatoes, was comparatively slight and unimportant. That which materially influenced the revenue was the prolonged stay of the Indian Contingent Force, as also the temporary addition made to the strength of the garrison, and the frequent visits of large men-of-war, which compensated in some degree for the loss sustained by the absence (for about 18 months consecutively) of the fleet from the Malta harbours.

The movement of the ports greatly increased during 1878 over the comparative inactivity of the shipping movement in 1877. In 1878 there was an increase of arrivals of 1,185 steam vessels, and 254 sailing vessels, which yielded an increase of 2,779*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* under the head of tonnage; and it is a noteworthy observation to place on record, that out of the 3,344 steam vessels which have entered the Malta harbours during 1878, "*2,945*" were British.

In the council of Government, the great and hitherto *vexata quæstio* of the drainage with its relative proportion of contribution between the Imperial and Local Governments, has now been once and for all definitely settled, and the works are being carried out as rapidly as circumstances will permit, those of the three city side being on the point of completion.

A proposal also has been made in the Council to diminish the wheat duty of 10*s.* a salm to one-half, or 5*s.*, and to substitute the loss entailed by that reduction, which will amount to (say) 24,000*l.* a year, by taxes which will fall with less degree of severity on the working classes than does the actual duty; and which taxes were recommended by Mr. Rowsell in a valuable report made on the Incidence of Taxation in Malta, and specially that of the Incidence of the Bread Tax, and presented to both Houses of Parliament in May 1878.

The difficulty of this question is, no doubt, great. On the one hand, the present wheat duty is stated to create the cost of an

extra halfpenny on each rotolo of bread (1 lb. 12 oz.), and its reduction to one-half would lighten that duty to a farthing, which, no doubt, would alleviate the bread-carners and the bread-eaters accordingly. The difficulty consists in finding substitutes for the reduction (even by one-half) of a tax which yields one-third of the revenue of the Island, and one-half of its taxation, but, with perseverance and good will, this difficulty may be got over to an amount perhaps of one-half at first, and after considerable time and very careful watching of the field of substituted taxes, possibly, at some future date, altogether.

The Island has been perfectly quiet during the year 1878.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON.
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
General Sir Arthur Borton, K.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 13.

REPORT on the GENERAL TRANSACTIONS and BLUE BOOK of the SETTLEMENT of SIERRA LEONE for the Year 1876.

General.

In the latter part of 1875 marauding parties invaded British Sherbro' on the southern frontier of the Settlement, and carried off some British subjects, and murdered others; but as a consequence of the energetic action of the Government in repelling these, and in the punishment of the ringleaders, its relations with the native tribes in that part during 1876 were peaceful.

Among the tribes in the rivers, in the immediate neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, and to the northward, tribal wars existed, interfering much with cultivation and with the safety of the trading caravans passing through those districts.

Finance.

5. The financial transactions of the year 1876 may be summarised as follows:—

Revenue.

6. The net revenue of the Colony was 57,000*l.* (57,061*l.*)

7. Of this amount, customs furnished 48,335*l.*, excise (principally licenses for the sale of wine, beer, and spirits) 4,160*l.*

8. The revenue of 1876 was 1,700*l.* (1,656*l.*) less than that of 1875, which amounted to 58,700*l.* (58,717*l.*)

Expenditure.

9. The general expenditure on the current service of the year amounted to nearly 63,000*l.* (62,831*l.*)

SIERRA LEONE.

10. There was farther expended on works in connexion with the harbour, 2,000*l.* (1,880*l.*)

11. The net revenue of the current year therefore fell short of the expenditure by 7,000*l.* (7,380*l.*)

Grant in Aid.

12. There was a grant from Parliament in aid of the Colonial steamer of 3,000*l.* (the expenses for this service are not shown in the above sum of 63,000*l.*)

13. Farther aid to the funds of the settlement was obtained by temporary loans from the Bank of England and Cape of Good Hope, which, after various transactions, left a temporary addition to the current funds of 5,000*l.*

Debt.

14. At the close of the year the Settlement was in debt to the Bank of England 23,000*l.*

Reduction of Expenditure.

15. A reduction of 4,000*l.* (4,280*l.*) was effected in the general expenditure of the year. In 1875 the expenditure was 67,000*l.* (67,111*l.*), as against 63,000*l.* (62,831*l.*) in 1876.

16. In addition to the general reduction above shown, 6,000*l.* (5,954*l.*) less was expended on works in connexion with the harbour in 1875 than was spent in 1876.

17. Owing to the embarrassed condition of the finances of the Settlement, the small grants in aid of the native pastorate (belonging to the Church of England) and the Roman Catholic Mission were discontinued. It was also hoped that these religious bodies had attained a position which would enable them to carry on their labours without aid from the State.

18. As vacancies occurred in the civil offices, some of them were not filled up, their duties being joined with those of other offices, and as a consequence of the re-arrangement of the Supreme Court a reduction was made in the staff of the judicial establishment.

Legislation.

19. During the year an Ordinance was passed reconstituting the Supreme Court of the Settlement, and lessening the number of judicial officers.

20. An Ordinance was also passed giving power to the Church Committee to hold certain property on trust.

21. The only other Ordinances were such as made provision for granting funds for carrying on the service of the Settlement.

Government.

22. During the absence, on leave, of the Governor-in-Chief (Mr. Kortright), the Government of the Settlement was administered by the Lieutenant-Governor (Mr. Rowe) during the first half year.

Civil Establishments.

23. The constant changes among the heads of departments and their frequent absence, due principally to climate, tended much to interfere with the routine of public business.

Trade.

24. The trade of the year was exceptionally bad, and this may be considered to have been due specially to a bad harvest of the principal articles of export (amounting in some places to a failure of the entire crop), and in less degree to the tribal wars above alluded to. These causes reduced the quantity produced; and the low prices prevailing in the European market for the African produce exported from this port also tended to lessen the value of the exports and correspondingly the amount of the imports.

Imports.

25. The gross value of the articles imported realised 273,000*l.*

26. The imports show a falling off as compared with 1875, of 53,000*l.*, or one sixth of the total.

27. The principal falling off appears to have been on cotton goods, of which the value and quantity did not amount to more than half the goods imported in 1873.

28. The value of the cotton goods imported was about 100,000*l.* These, with guns and gunpowder, spirits, and tobacco, form the principal articles of trade with the interior, and their total value amounted in 1876 to about 160,000*l.* of the gross imports. The remaining 100,000*l.* may be considered to be made up of articles chiefly intended for use in the Settlement and neighbouring trading stations. The area of consumption is constantly extending.

Exports.

29. The gross value of the exports amounted to 297,000*l.*; and as compared with the exports of 1875 show also a falling off in value of about 50,000*l.* (53,366*l.*)

30. I have divided the exports from the port, as follows:—

1. African produce, which is the produce or manufacture of the Settlement.
2. African produce brought to the Settlement for sale from adjacent districts.
3. European goods imported and subsequently exported to neighbouring posts beyond jurisdiction.

SIERRA LEONE.

31. The exported "products of the Settlement," which all come from the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, are valued at 21,000*l.* (21,366*l.*), or not quite one-fourteenth of the total export from the port, a little less than 7 per cent.

32. The total value of African produce (exclusive of the above) collected from districts outside the immediate Settlement amounted to 200,000*l.*, about two-thirds of the whole, or more than 65 per cent.

33. The European goods which had been imported during or previous to the year, and were exported during the year, amounted to 78,000*l.* (77,605*l.*), or a little more than one fourth.

34. This may be shown approximately, as follows:—

	£
Produce of the Settlement - - -	20,000
Neighbouring districts - - -	200,000
European goods - - - -	80,000
	300,000

or, Settlement - - -	$6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.
Neighbouring districts -	$66\frac{2}{3}$ „
European goods - -	$26\frac{2}{3}$ „
	100 per cent. of the whole.

Ginger.

35. The quantity of ginger, the only article of export which is the immediate produce of the Settlement, shows a satisfactory increase; whether as compared with the export of last year, or with the average exports of the last five or ten years, the quantity was the largest which has been exported since the year 1866. On the other hand the value was low as compared with some former years. The quantity was 2,098,000 lbs., and the value, 21,000*l.*

India-rubber.

36. Among the African produce, coming from neighbouring districts, india-rubber may be considered a comparatively new article of trade. It has only existed as an article of export since 1873, and the export in 1876 amounted to nearly 500,000 lbs. in weight, and to a value of 18,000*l.*

37. I attach tables giving the values of the principal articles imported and exported during the year 1876, and showing a comparison between the transactions of this year and the year 1875.

Health.

38. No special epidemic disease showed itself in the Settlement. A few cases of small-pox occurred among the native population, but these were not exceptionally numerous.

Prospects of the Settlement.

39. Although when compared with settlements under English rule in more healthy climates, Sierra Leone can show very little in its favour, it presents a striking contrast to the Africa immediately adjacent to its borders beyond the limits of Britith territory, and the results of comparison are entirely in favour of the British Settlement.

40. If by economical administration and some limited territorial extension of its fiscal system, the Settlement can be made to pay the expenses of administration, its existence as a British Settlement is not undesirable in the interests of civilization and Christianity.

41. The special advantages of its harbour, and the security afforded by British rule, render it valuable as a trading depôt, and by the water communication with adjacent districts, and by the trade routes to the interior, along which caravans come from far on the way to Timbuctoo, thousands of natives annually visit it and create a market for English manufactures not unworthy of consideration.

(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor-in-Chief.

September 13, 1879.

COMPARATIVE YEARLY STATEMENT of the REVENUE for 1875 and 1876.

Head of Receipt.	Amount collected in the Year 1875.	Amount collected in the Year 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Arrears of revenue	- - -	2,204 7 9	—	—	
Fixed.					
Customs	50,846 7 8	48,334 17 0	- - -	2,511 10 8	Less imports and exports.
Licenses	3,459 19 8	4,160 4 0	- - -	- - -	Sherbro' not included for 1875.
Rents (exclusive of lands)	76 12 6	77 2 6	—	—	
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	1,405 1 1	1,358 19 2	—	—	
Fees of office	- - -	0 2 6	—	—	
Land sales	38 7 5	33 12 0	—	—	
Sale of Government property	140 14 8	106 2 8	—	—	
Reimbursement in aid of Government expenses	160 13 4	165 13 11	—	—	
Miscellaneous receipts	109 15 1	69 16 0	—	—	
Hospital stoppages	1,646 3 6	1,665 8 5	19 4 11	- - -	Sherbro' not included for 1875.
Postage	492 12 10	468 4 0	—	—	
Incidental.					
Reimbursement in aid of Government expenses	340 8 3	219 1 10	—	—	
Miscellaneous receipts	- - -	333 15 1	—	—	
Postage	- - -	68 2 7	68 2 7	- - -	Sale of stamps not shown in account under postage.
	58,716 16 0	57,061 1 8	- - -	1,655 14 4	Gross decrease.
Receipts in Aid.					
Parliamentary grant, colonial steamer	1,952 8 3	3,000 0 0	1,047 11 9	- - -	Same grant was given but not collected in the period for which allowed.
Further balance of loans, Bank of England	- - -	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	- - -	Vide Report.
Special Receipts.					
Reimbursement in aid of public works	737 2 5	269 17 2	- - -	467 5 3	Sale of stores belonging to this account.
Refund on account of Colonial steamer	76 0 0	32 5 0	- - -	43 15 0	Passages and other small items.
Balance on general account	2,157 12 9	302 2 2			
	63,639 19 5	67,567 11 7	—	—	

Comparative Yearly Statement of the Colonial Expenditure for 1875 and 1876.

Head of Disbursement.	Expenditure in the Year 1875.	Expenditure in the Year 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Arrears of expenditure	- - -	11,852 8 8	—	—	
Ordinary and Fixed.					
Establishments	30,154 4 8	32,925 9 0	- - -	- - -	Sherbro' not included for 1875.
Miscellaneous Civil Services.					
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	2,207 5 0	3,430 14 8	1,223 9 8	- - -	Pensions to A. Pike, 500*l*., and Chief Justice French, 700*l*.
Administration of justice (exclusive of establishment).	480 3 0	1,055 3 11	575 0 11	- - -	Execution at Sherbro', after Bargroo expedition.
Ecclesiastical (exclusive of establishment)	563 10 0	95 14 0	- - -	467 16 0	Grant to native pastorate ceased.
Charitable allowances	380 0 0	379 16 0	—	—	
Education (exclusive of establishment)	232 6 5	766 12 5	534 6 0	- - -	Arrears of grant to schools paid up.
Hospitals do.	4,671 2 6	2,582 10 11	- - -	- - -	Sherbro' not included for 1875.
Police and gaols do.	3,518 3 9	2,347 2 1	- - -	- - -	Do. do.
Rent	693 5 6	771 17 9	- - -	- - -	Do. do.
Transport services	1,007 13 10	1,639 19 9	- - -	- - -	Do. do.
Conveyance of mails	1,262 3 4	713 18 8	- - -	548 4 8	Boat service to Sherbro' in lieu of steamer.
Works and buildings	3,680 6 8	1,185 15 1	- - -	2,494 11 7	Considerable reduction.
Roads, streets, and bridges	1,102 2 11	1,027 13 6	- - -	74 9 5	General reduction.
Miscellaneous services	1,517 12 10	6,093 10 3	4,575 17 5	- - -	Bargroo expedition.
Aborigines	1,887 13 1	1,579 14 7	- - -	307 18 6	Sherbro' not included. General decrease on gifts.
Drawbacks and refund of duties	1,413 3 11	424 9 7	- - -	988 14 4	Ordinance No. 1 of 1875.
Interest	3,591 10 5	3,970 4 5	378 14 0	- - -	Arrears paid up.
Sinking fund	500 0 0	1,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	- - -	Do.
Sanitary department (exclusive of establishment)	718 1 0	341 2 1	- - -	376 18 11	Less expenditure.
*Advances to be hereafter accounted for	7,530 18 5	—	—	—	
	67,111 7 3	62,831 8 8	- - -	4,279 18 7	Gross decrease, vide report.
Special Expenditure.					
Public works—harbour	7,834 8 6	1,880 7 9	- - -	5,954 0 9	Reduced expenditure on harbour sea wall.
Colonial steamer	3,652 6 10	1,977 15 9	- - -	1,674 11 1	Vessel unfit for service during half year
		3,858 3 6			
	78,598 2 7	66,689 12 2			

* These were outstanding for the current services of the year, and should have been brought to account under proper heads.

SIERRA LEONE.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of GROSS VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS, 1875 and 1876.

Principal Articles.	Value.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports, 1875 - - - -	326,011	0	0			
„ 1876 - - - -	272,606	0	0			
Decrease - -	- - -			53,405	0	0
Exports, 1875 - - - -	350,202	0	0			
„ 1876 - - - -	297,036	0	0			
Decrease - -	- - -			53,166	0	0

DETAILED MEMORANDUM on the TRADE of 1876 to accompany the BLUE BOOK.

Imports.

1. The gross imports entered as for home consumption show a falling off of 53,000*l.*, or one sixth of the total value.

2. The imported dutiable goods which represent trade with the interior may be considered to be guns, gunpowder, spirits, tobacco.

3. The remainder of the dutiable articles may be considered as imported for consumption within the Settlement, and comprise and are ale and porter, wine, clarets.

4. I attach a table showing the comparative value of these in 1875, 1876.

5. *Imports.—Value.*

—	1875.			1876.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Guns - - - - -	3,476	0	0	2,367	0	0
Gunpowder - - - - -	6,515	0	0	4,136	0	0
Spirits - - - - -	25,087	0	0	32,146	0	0
Tobacco - - - - -	28,509	0	0	24,352	0	0
	63,587	0	0	63,001	0	0
Ale and porter - - - -	2,645	0	0	2,985	0	0
Wine - - - - -	2,170	0	0	2,722	0	0
„ claret - - - - -	1,273	0	0	1,346	0	0
	6,088	0	0	7,053	0	0

6. Though on the general imports of the Colony there was a falling off as compared with last year of 53,000*l.*, there was no falling off in the value of the whole of the dutiable articles, as appears from attached tables.

7. The value, however, does not directly correspond with the quantity, and the duties levied on these articles are specific and calculated at so much per gallon or per pound irrespective of quality.

8. The principal falling off in the value of the imports was in

the article of cotton, where there was a difference of 30,000*l.* There was also a less value imported of the following articles :—

	£
Gunpowder - - - -	2,000
Hardware - - - -	5,000
Lumber - - - -	2,000
Tobacco - - - -	4,000
Woollen goods - - -	2,000

9. The less imported quantities of hardware and lumber would point to lessened prosperity, resulting in less house building and consequently less use for galvanised iron roofing and American timber; and the less quantity of woollen goods also to less comfort among the Sierra Leone population.

10. There was a decrease in the import of spirits of 13,391 gallons, but an increase in the declared value of 7,059*l.*

Exports.

11. The gross exports of the year show a falling off as compared with 1876 of 53,166*l.*

The amount of this on the value of the three heads, "Produce and Manufacture of the Colony," "Other African Produce," and "European Goods," is shown as follows :—

12. *Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.*

	Value.	
	£	£
1875 - - - -	25,248	
1876 - - - -	21,366	
Decrease - -		3,882
Other African Produce.		
1875 - - - -	217,326	
1876 - - - -	198,065	
Decrease - -		19,261
European Goods.		
1875 - - - -	107,628	
1876 - - - -	77,605	
Decrease - -		30,023
		53,166

13. The principal articles exported may be summarised as follows :—

Benniseed.	Ginger.	Palm oil.
Cotton goods.	Ground nuts.	India-rubber.
Colah nuts.	Hides.	Tobacco.
Gum.	Palm kernels.	

SIERRA LEONE.

Benniseed.

14. The total export was 12,257 bushels, 3,500 bushels more than in 1875, about 1,100*l.* value. Benniseed is one of the articles of export most variable in quantity and value, having wavered from 13,000 bushels in 1866 up to 127,000 in 1872, 35,000 in 1873, and followed by 71,000 in 1874, and 14,000 in 1875.

Cotton Goods.

15. Of cotton goods, a comparatively small amount was exported, 1,266 packages, value about 35,000*l.* There was a falling off in the value exported of this article as compared with last year of 31,000*l.*

Colah Nuts.

16. The export of this article was exceptionally large. It reached no less than 1,953 baskets, 5,859 cwt., or a value of 20,000*l.* It is interesting to note the steady progress of this trade since 1867 when it showed 5,744*l.*

Gum.

17. The export of this article was somewhat less than that of last year, about 36,000 in weight, or 3,000*l.* in value.

Ginger.

18. The amount of ginger exported was 2,000,000 lbs., the largest quantity exported since 1866, and its value was put at 21,082*l.*

In 1866 the quantity was 2,236,000 valued at 24,740*l.*

Ground Nuts.

19. In the staple crop of ground nuts there is a falling off of nearly one-half. Total quantity exported amounted to 221,000 bushels, the smallest account of exports from the port since 1866.

Hides.

20. The number of these exported did not amount to half of those exported in 1875, which again was not the half of those exported in 1873, nor one third of those exported in 1870.

Doubtless, much of the falling off in this export is due to the direct export of hides from the northern rivers.

Palm Kernels.

21. The amount of palm kernels exported was 316,000 bushels, as compared with 378,000*l.* bushels in 1875. The export of this article appears to fluctuate much. The export of the year was equal to that of 1872 and 1870.

Palm Oil.

22. The amount of this article exported did not reach to half the amount in 1876 of that which was exported in 1875, but in 1875 the export of that year more than doubled that of 1874.

India rubber.

23. The india-rubber trade shows a very satisfactory increase, having amounted from 1873 to nearly 500,000 lbs. weight in 1876, or a value of 18,000*l.*

Tobacco.

24. Three hundred and twenty-three thousand lbs. tobacco were exported from the Settlement. The amount so exported has varied between 300,000 lbs. and 600,000 lbs. weight, or 25,000*l.* and 10,000*l.* in value, since 1866.

IMPORTS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.—QUANTITIES and VALUES referred to in accompanying MEMORANDUM on the TRADE of the Year 1876.

Imports, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTON.				
	Packages.	£	£	£
1875 - -	4,326	132,276		
1876 - -	3,782	100,889		
Decrease -	544	31,387	- - -	31,387
GUNPOWDER.				
	Barrels.	£	£	£
1875 - -	3,001	6,515		
1876 - -	2,125	4,136		
Decrease -	876	2,379	- - -	2,379
HARDWARE.				
	Packages.	£	£	£
1875 - -	3,453	14,474		
1876 - -	1,893	9,432		
Decrease -	1,560	5,042	- - -	5,042
LUMBER.				
	Feet.	£	£	£
1875 - -	673,205	3,703		
1876 - -	251,830	1,398		
Decrease -	421,375	2,305	- - -	2,305

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
		SPIRITS.		
	Gallons.	£	£	£
1875 - -	226,251	25,087		
1876 - -	212,860	32,146		
Increase -	—	7,059		
Decrease -	13,391	—	7,059	
		TOBACCO.		
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	714,211	28,509		
1876 - -	702,338	24,352		
Decrease -	11,873	4,157	- - -	4,157
		'WOOLLEN GOODS.		
	Packages.	£	£	£
1875 - -	188	5,075		
1876 - -	133	2,849		
Decrease -	55	2,226	- - -	2,226

EXPORTS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.—QUANTITIES and VALUES referred to in accompanying MEMORANDUM on the TRADE of the Year 1876.

Exports, 1875 *and* 1876.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
		BENNISEED.		
	Bushels.	£	£	£
1875 - -	13,633	3,332		
1876 -	17,257	4,498		
Increase -	3,624	1,166	1,166	

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTONS.				
	Packages.	£	£	£
1875 - -	2,063	65,977		
1876 - -	1,266	35,060		
Decrease -	797	30,917	- - -	30,917
COLAH NUTS.				
	Baskets.	£	£	£
1875 - -	1,464	17,677		
1876 - -	1,953	20,776		
Increase -	489	3,099	3,099	
GUM COPAL.				
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	621,375	14,231		
1876 - -	585,371	11,002		
Decrease -	36,004	3,229	- - -	3,229
GINGER.				
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	1,778,182	24,684		
1876 - -	2,097,782	21,082		
Increase -	319,600	—		
Decrease -	—	3,602	- - -	3,602
GROUND NUTS.				
	Bushels.	£	£	£
1875 - -	405,659	35,579		
1876 - -	220,903	19,358		
Decrease -	184,756	16,221	- -	16,221

SIERRA LEONE.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
HIDES.				
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	425,624	16,696		
1876 -	213,756	3,728		
Decrease -	211,868	12,968	- - -	12,968
PALM KERNELS.				
	Bushels.	£	£	£
1875 -	378,007	90,905		
1876 -	316,244	87,075		
Decrease -	61,763	3,830	- - -	3,830
PALM OIL.				
	Gallons.	£	£	£
1875 - -	716,505	24,996		
1876 - -	349,794	26,685		
Increase -	—	1,689	1,689	
Decrease -	366,711	—		
RUBBER.				
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	156,059	7,763		
1876 - -	486,605	18,027		
Increase -	330,546	10,264	10,264	
TOBACCO.				
	Lbs.	£	£	£
1875 - -	215,773	9,475		
1876 - -	322,902	11,816		
Increase -	107,129	2,341	2,341	

(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor.

13th September 1879.

GAMBIA.

No. 14.

GOVERNOR ROWE, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 11, 1879.

SIR,

IN reference to the subject of my despatch No. 52 dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit two copies of the Blue Book of the Gambia for the year 1877, with a report on the same by the acting administrator Mr. Berkeley.

From the acting administrator's explanation, I gather (page 3) that the revenue of the Settlement for 1877 amounted to 19,255*l.*, the expenditure 18,962*l.* There was a balance, therefore, to the credit of the year of 293*l.*

The financial position of the Settlement on the 31st of December 1877 shows a current local balance of 873*l.* The total assets including this balance amounted to 3,287*l.* Liabilities 4,453*l.*, of which 1,600*l.* was due to the Crown agents, an excess of liabilities over assets of 1,166*l.*

Parliamentary Grant.

In consequence of the embarrassed state of the Settlement, a grant in aid of the local revenue was made by the Home Government amounting to 3,000*l.* in addition to the annual grant for the mail subsidy of 1,200*l.* which was continued.

Legislation.

An addition was made to the Sanitary Ordinance, requiring any owner or occupier of land in the town to clean the road on all sides of his lot.

A new Ordinance was passed to regulate the market in the town of Bathurst, and also an Ordinance to establish additional quarantine regulations.

Ten Ordinances in all were passed during the year, and the remainder do not call for special comment.

Civil Establishment.

The administration of the Settlement was carried on under exceptional difficulties with a reduced staff of officials.

The late collector and treasurer, Captain H. I. M. Cooper, continued to act as administrator from 1st January 1877 until his death on the 9th of that month, when the administration of the Government was taken up by Mr. Berkeley, then secretary and first writer, who had been acting as collector and treasurer since 13th February 1875, the date at which the administration was assumed by Captain Cooper.

GAMBIA.

Surgeon-Major V. S. Gouldsbury, C.M.G., was appointed administrator of the Settlement, and assumed the Government on the 31st March.

Mr. Edwin Adolphus was appointed chief magistrate, and assumed the duties of his office on the 31st March.

Mr. Frank Smith, B.L., had been acting temporarily from the preceding year.

The office of first writer and secretary remained in abeyance, as also that of superintendent of police, and other minor appointments were not filled up with a view to exercising all possible economy in the expenditure of public money.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in 1877 (page 5) was 93,088*l.*, against 89,356*l.* in 1876. The value of the exports in 1877 was 125,051*l.*, against 86,215*l.* in 1876, showing an increase of imports 3,732*l.*, and exports 38,835*l.*

17. The principal articles of imports were as follows :—

	£
Cotton goods	20,271
Cola nuts	15,405
Flour	753
Guns and pistols	2,283
Gunpowder	1,780
Hardware	1,969
Iron pots, 330*l.*; Iron bars, 858*l.*	1,188
Lumber and plank	1,210
Oil (lamp)	1,105
Provisions, exclusive of rice	1,397
Rice, clean, 8,433*l.*; Rough (from W.A.S.), 535*l.*	8,968
Spirits :	
Absinthe, 283*l.*; Gin, 697*l.*	980
Brandy, 738*l.*; Rum, 3,037*l.*; Whisky, 8*l.*	3,783
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	10,576
Do. (manufactured)	269
Wearing apparel	1,120
Wine	2,401
Total	75,458

I would respectfully draw attention to one or two items specially worthy of notice.

The colah nuts imported amounted to 15,405*l.* in value.

More than three times the value of the spirits; half as much more as the value of tobacco, and 75 per cent. of the value of the cotton goods.

The value of these, the principal articles of imports, being as under:—

	£
Cotton goods	20,271
Colah nuts	15,405
Tobacco	10,576
Spirits	4,763

The small quantity of spirits is directly influenced by the Mahomedan religion of the tribes trading with Bathurst.

The Colah trade is most interesting. It is a purely African commerce. The nuts are collected in the country bordering Sierra Leone and neighbouring rivers, and sold to Mahomedan tribes in the GAMBIA and SENEGAL.

The trade is carried on almost entirely by women, and the passage money of the traders and the freights of their hampers to the Gambia forms no inconsiderable addition to the receipts of the mail steamer which passes to Bathurst on her homeward voyage.

In 1876 the comparative value of the imports of cotton and colah nuts was as follows:—

	£
Cotton	17,015
Colah nuts	18,724

Exports.

The value of the exports, which are entered (page 182) as produce and manufacture of the Colony, amounts to 121,978*l.*, and the principal articles are—

	£
Ground nuts	111,573
Hides	3,591
Ivory	371
India-rubber	45
Mats	10
Monkey bread seeds	5
Pagns or country native cloth	658
Stuffed birds	40
	116,293

In addition to the above, there were exported:—

	£
Coffee	9
Colah nuts	64
Corn	29
Cotton (clean)	215
Cotton (raw)	110
Cotton seeds	21
Gold	150

	£
Gum Arabic - - - -	6
Palm kernels - - - - -	968
Tanning beans - - - - -	12
Wax - - - - - -	5,681
Total - -	7,265

all of which may be taken to be African produce, though not classed as the produce of the Colony.

These two amounts will give a total of 123,558*l.* value of African produce exported from the Gambia during the year 1877.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Bathurst,
December 28, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency three copies of the Gambia Blue Book for the year 1877, with my report thereon.

Revenue.

The return of revenue made up from the Treasury books shows 26,585*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

The details are as follow :—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - - - -	18,830	18	3
Licenses - - - - -	1,177	15	0
Rents, exclusive of land - - -	585	7	0
Land revenue - - - -	187	15	6
Fines, forfeitures, &c. - - -	326	12	10½
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	1,039	19	4
Reimbursements in aid - - -	130	6	8½
Postage - - - - -	56	5	8
Sale of Government property - -	7	6	6
Government steamer - - -	3	13	0
Auction duty - - - -	27	10	3
Special receipts - - - -	11	19	2
Receipts in aid of revenue—parliamentary grant - - - - -	4,200	0	0
	26,585	9	3

These totals include, however, several receipts which are not revenue proper.

The following table shows these several items :—

STATEMENT showing amounts included in Revenue Returns of 1877, which are not Revenue proper.

Miscellaneous receipts :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Overpayments and refunds -	79	3	10			
Copper coin imported -	100	0	0			
Loans of cash and bills purchased on time - -	860	0	0			
				1,039	3	10
Parliamentary grant :—						
In aid of general revenue	3,000	0	0			
On account of mail service	1,200	0	0			
				4,200	0	0
				5,239	3	10

	Revenue. £	s.	d.
Taking the figures shown on the first return,	26,585	9	2
and deducting the amount of the above statement	5,239	3	10
a result is shown of - - - -	21,346	5	4

But in the revenue is included 2,091*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, the amount of bonds for customs duties given between the 1st of July and 31st December 1877, which should not appear in the cash transactions of the Settlement until they are realized.

	£	s.	d.
If from the above total - -	21,346	5	4
we eliminate these bonds - -	2,091	3	1
a revenue *proper* is shown, of - -	19,255	2	3

Expenditure.

The expenditure by the returns is 21,381*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, thus :—

	£	s.	d.
Establishments - - -	11,551	8	1
Pensions, &c. - - - -	1,138	17	11
Revenue services, exclusive of establishment - - - -	250	5	4
Administration of justice - -	64	14	4
Charitable allowances - - -	159	14	0
Education, exclusive of establishment -	414	16	0
Hospitals, do. do. -	202	5	1
Police and gaols - - -	642	5	9
Rent - - - -	70	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Transport - - - -	660	1	1½
Conveyance of mails - - -	512	1	0
Works and buildings - - -	1,035	19	11½
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	402	6	10
Miscellaneous services - - -	2,967	15	1
Government vessels - - -	544	17	7½
Aborigines - - - -	619	8	0½
Drawbacks and refund of duties -	132	9	6
Special services - - -	11	19	2
	21,381	4	10

This sum includes payments which are not expenditure proper, viz. :—

Miscellaneous Services.

	£	s.	d.
Payment of loans and for bills purchased on time	2,419	7	6
Which deducted from the amount shown in return	21,381	4	10
Gives an expenditure of - - -	18,961	17	4

At the 31st December 1877 the financial position of the Settlement was as follows :—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand - - - -				872	10	2
Due by Sierra Leone Government -	53	5	0			
„ Gold Coast - - - -	50	8	0			
				103	13	0
„ on account of advances to heads of department - - - -				107	6	4
Arrears of rents, exclusive of land, paid in 1878 - - - -	95	6	10			
Arrears of fines and forfeitures paid in 1878 - - - -	17	2	5			
				112	9	3
Bonds of 1877 payable in 1878 -		-		2,091	3	1
				3,287	1	10

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Due on account of salaries, &c. - - -	240	3	9
„ pensions - - - - -	245	18	4
„ supplies for several services - -	125	16	11
Due Sierra Leone Government - - -	1,414	6	6
„ „ for coals consumed by H.M. "Seagull" on a trip up River Gambia - - -	49	4	9
Due, Crown Agents - - - -	1,600	0	10

	£	s.	d.
Due, Parliamentary Grant (mail subsidy) - -	700	0	0
Due, deposit account - - - -	77	18	5
	4,453	9	6
Excess of Liabilities over Assets - - -	1,166	7	8

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports and exports during the year 1877 was as follows:—

	Imports from	Exports to
	£	£
Great Britain - - - -	43,986	18,580
Leeward Coast, including Sierra Leone -	16,862	1,340
British West Indies - - -	167	360
France - - - - -	6,748	96,346
Windward Coast, including Goree* -	25,325	8,425
America - - - -	—	—
The total value of the imports in 1876 was -		89,356
„ „ „ 1877 „ -		93,088
Showing an increase of - -		3,732
The total value of the exports in 1876 was -		86,216
„ „ „ 1877 „ -		125,051
Showing an increase of - -		38,835

The increase is attributable to the larger crop of ground nuts in 1877. The greater the crop of the staple article of cultivation by the natives, the greater is their purchasing capacity, and, consequently, there is a larger import to meet their requirements.

The principal articles in which there was an increase were cotton goods, 3,257*l.*

The increase in the value of the exports is owing to the larger export of nuts consequent on a larger crop, the increase was 5,953 tons, value 41,673*l.*

The trifling increase in the value of the imports is not commensurate with the large increase in the exports, but the ground nut crop of 1876 was very small, and a considerable portion of the imports of that year remained on hand at its close, and were available for the trade of 1877. The export of palm kernels is gradually but steadily increasing. The export in 1877 was 460*l.* more than in 1875.

Shipping.

There was an increase of 6,885 tons.

* These are for the most part French goods imported viâ Goree.

GAMBIA.

Legislation.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year 1877. Nos. 1, 3, 8, and 11 were supply Ordinance.

No. 2.—To make valid the acts of the officer in charge of the Gambia Government between the date of the death of the properly appointed Acting Administrator (the 9th January 1877) and the receipt by the officer in charge of a commission appointing him Acting Administrator of the Settlement (8th February 1877).

No. 4.—To continue in force the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

No. 5.—To establish additional quarantine regulations.

No. 6.—To improve the sanitary regulations of the Settlement.

No. 7.—Was a new Market Ordinance.

No. 9.—To continue in force the Rates Ordinance 1874.

No. 10.—Was a naturalization Ordinance.

Public Works.

With the exception of repairs which could not be postponed, nothing was done, every effort being made to curtail expenses so as to be in a position to liquidate the outstanding debts against the Settlement.

Education.

The attendance at the schools of the Established Church has increased. The principal week-day school is now in a satisfactory state.

The attendance at the schools of the other denominations has slightly increased.

General Remarks.

The health of the Settlement was good.

There was the usual predatory warfare waged by the natives against each other, but not to such an extent as to retard trading operations. At the close of the year there was a prospect of an extraordinarily large crop of ground nuts in 1878. The crop of 1878 has exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. BERKELEY,
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Sierra Leone.

GOLD COAST.

No. 15.

Lieut.-Governor LEES, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
June 19, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a report upon the Blue Book of the Settlements on the Gold Coast for the year 1878, which has been handed to me by Captain J. S. Hay, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. The books will be forwarded by book post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretariat, Christiansborg,
June 16, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Settlements on the Gold Coast for the year 1878, and to submit the following remarks thereon :—

2. There has been an addition to the taxes and duties in the shape of light dues.

3. The total revenue from all sources was 105,091*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.*, showing an increase of 11,744*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* over that of the previous year, which is to be attributed to the good oil season which stimulated trade generally in the Colony. Of the gross amount, the customs contributed 89,506*l.* (specific 79,696*l.*, ad valorem, 9,809*l.*), the other principal heads of revenue being :—

	£
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - -	3,421
Postage - - - - -	247
Profit on sale of gold dust transmitted to Crown agents - - - - -	394
Sale of Government property - - -	419
Licenses - - - - -	3,051

4. The expenditure amounted to 68,410*l.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of 36,681*l.* As compared with the year 1877 the revenue shows an increase of 11,744*l.*, and the expenditure a decrease of 14,331*l.*

5. There are no local revenues raised and appropriated under the authority of any municipal or other body.

6. There is no public debt of the Gold Coast. The Imperial Parliament voted a grant in 1874–75 of 35,000*l.* with a view of

GOLD COAST.

carrying out several important works—of this sum 28,000*l.* has been repaid.

7. The Colony does not incur any expenditure on account of its military defence beyond an allowance to the officers and men in lieu of exemption from import duties.

There is no Militia, the establishment of the constabulary, however, is fixed at :—The inspector-general, two inspectors, the adjutant and musketry instructor, the artillery inspector, the pay and quartermaster, 10 assistant inspectors, two native officers, eight sergeants-major, 40 sergeants, 40 corporals, one drum-major, 800 privates, 12 boys, one armourer sergeant, one orderly room clerk, three clerks and interpreters, three priests, and one assistant to pay and quartermaster.

The forts and redoubts garrisoned by the constabulary are :—Axim Fort, Dixcove Fort, Secondee Fort, Elmina Castle, Anamaboe Fort, Accra Fort, and Quittah Fort, together with the redoubts at Mansue and Prahsue. In addition to the above, small parties are stationed at various places on the Prahsue Road for the protection of traders.

8. The expenditure on public works, roads, and buildings amounted to 4,423*l.* The principal works completed being the Colonial Secretary's quarters and office, the renovation of Elmina Castle, the conversion of St. Jago Fort into a prison, and the additions to Ussher Fort and the erection therein of the quarters for two constabulary officers.

9. Fourteen Ordinances were passed during the year, viz. :—

No. 1. An Ordinance for further regulating certain Allowances to Government Officers.

No. 2. An Ordinance relating to Sales by Auction.

No. 3. An Ordinance relating to Pilotage in the Harbour of Lagos, and for regulating the said Harbour and promoting the Health of the Seamen therein.

No. 4. An Ordinance to regulate dealing in Ammunition and Arms.

No. 5. An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain Expenditure for the Service of the Settlements on the Gold Coast for the year 1877.

No. 6. An Ordinance to apply a Sum out of the Revenue of the Settlement on the Gold Coast required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement for the year 1878.

No. 7. An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain Expenditure for the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1877, and to make further provision for that year.

No. 8. An Ordinance to facilitate and regulate the exercise in the Protected Territories of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities.

No. 9. An Ordinance to provide for the levying of Light Dues in the Settlement on the Gold Coast.

No. 10. An Ordinance for better regulating the Police of Towns and populous places, and promoting the Public Health.

No. 11. An Ordinance to apply a Sum of Money out of the Revenue of the Settlement of Lagos, required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement for the year 1878.

No. 12. An Ordinance to apply a Sum of Money out of the Revenue of the Settlement on the Gold Coast, required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement for the year 1879.

No. 13. An Ordinance giving validity to all administrative acts of Surgeon-Major Frank Simpson during his temporary administration of the Government of Lagos.

No. 14. An Ordinance to apply a sum of money out of the revenue of the Settlement of Lagos required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement for the year 1879.

10. In the civil establishment the changes in appointments of a responsible nature were as follows:—T. R. Griffith to be Collector and Treasurer, vice R. Butler, resigned; Assistant Colonial Secretary M. J. Brown to be Colonial Secretary, vice Dumaresq, deceased; Inspector-General J. S. Hay, Gold Coast Constabulary to be Assistant Colonial Secretary, vice Brown; Inspector Grant to be Inspector-General; Assistant Inspector Dudley to be Inspector; M. Jones to be an Assistant Colonial Surveyor; Dr. J. J. McKeogh to be an Assistant Colonial Surgeon; Samuel Bannerman to be Assistant Collector. Five assistant inspectors of constabulary have been appointed. viz.:—Messrs. R. H. Hare, F. Pigott, P. D. O'Brien, F. M. F. G. Hackett, and R. W. Bastow.

There were three deaths among the European officers during the year, two on the coast and one on the passage to England.

Three officers were invalided to England, in the previous year four officers were invalided to England, and three died.

11. The kingdom of the Netherlands is the only country represented by a consul, who resides at Elmina.

12. Various causes prevent accurate information being obtained as to the native population, but it may be roughly estimated to be between 400,000 and 500,000.

13. The influence of the Church of England does not extend beyond Cape Coast; the Wesleyan, Basle, and North German Missions being the principal religious establishments in the Settlement.

These societies exercise a considerable amount of influence in civilising, as well as christianising, the people. The Basle Society have lay missionaries who are conversant with different trades, and endeavour to instruct the natives in them, thus laying the foundation of what eventually must prove of great advantage

14. There is at Cape Coast a school in connexion with the Church of England, for both male and female children, and the Wesleyan, Basle, and North German Missions have schools at their different stations in the Settlements. From the returns

GOLD COAST. received the number of scholars of both sexes would appear to be:—

Church of England	-	-	173
Wesleyan Missionary Society	-	-	2,727
Basle „ „	-	-	1,189
North German „ „	-	-	159

To the Wesleyan and Basle Societies a grant of 100*l.* is made for the promotion of education.

15. The value of imports and exports for the year have been respectively 394,152*l.* and 393,457*l.* Large importations of dry goods came from the United Kingdom, and of spirits and tobacco from the Continent and America. The principal exports are gold dust, palm oil, palm kernels, and gum copal.

16. The number of sailing vessels entered was 106, with an aggregate tonnage of 29,732 tons, and the same number cleared.

The number of steam vessels entered was 62, with an aggregate tonnage of 61,006 tons, and the same number cleared. It may be remarked that these vessels consist almost entirely of the mail packets.

17. Some little progress is visible in agriculture, in certain districts more energy is being displayed in clearing the bush, and forming plantations which will tend to increase the supply of the staple commodity, *i.e.*, palm oil. A decided movement has taken place with the view of working the gold fields in Wassaw. Two companies have already commenced operations, and are introducing machinery to enable the work to be carried on to the best advantage. As these operations have been only in progress a short time, it is too early to predict as to the eventual result.

The fisheries are carried on by canoes, and is followed as a trade by considerable numbers of the inhabitants of the seaboard towns and villages; hand nets and lines are used. At certain seasons there is an abundance of fish, but owing to the rude appliances employed the supply often fails to satisfy the demand.

18. The number of prisoners committed in 1878 was 827. Two deaths occurred at Accra. The crimes were principally larceny and assaults.

19. The Colonial Hospital dispenses medicines free to the inhabitants, and is entirely supported by Government. The daily average number of patients in the Hospital during the year was 15.

The Colonial Surgeon reports that the principal diseases were fever, rheumatism, ulcers, and yaws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. Hay,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency C. C. Lees, Esq., C. M. G.
Lieut.-Governor Gold Coast Colony.

LAGOS.

No. 16.

Lieut.-Governor LEES, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
SIR, June 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a report upon the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1878, which I have received from Captain Moloney, the Acting Administrator.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Lagos,
SIR, May 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for 1878, which will be transmitted to your Excellency as soon as it is completed.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

1. The taxes during the year have been the same as those in force in 1877. It may be convenient to have them here repeated as follows, which I quote from Ordinance of the Gold Coast Colony, No. 8 of 1877 :—

	s.	*d.*
On wines, liqueurs, brandy, and cordials of any sort, the imperial gallon - - -	1	0
On spirits not being liqueurs, brandy, or cordials, the imperial gallon - - - -	0	6
On tobacco, the pound - - - -	0	2

The following duties shall be drawn back upon exportation by inland navigation or carriage to Porto Novo, on such conditions as the Governor in Council may direct, or to parts beyond the seas, of spirits or tobacco on which the full duties of importation shall have been paid, viz. :—

Upon spirits, all sums paid thereon for duties of importation exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ the gallon.

Upon tobacco, all sums paid thereon for duties of importation exceeding $\frac{1}{4}d.$ the pound, and spirits and tobacco duly warehoused for security of duties or transhipped for exportation shall be exported to Porto Novo as aforesaid, or to parts beyond the seas, upon payment of the following duties, viz. :—

	d.
Upon spirits, the gallon - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Upon tobacco, the pound - -	$\frac{1}{4}$

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Provided that all spirits and tobacco exported as aforesaid shall be deemed to be goods exported for drawback.

	s.	d.
On beer and malt liquor of any sort in bottles, the dozen - - - - -	0	9
On beer and malt liquor of any sort in wood, the imperial gallon - - - -	0	4½
On cigars, the thousand - - -	5	0
On cowries, the hundredweight - -	1	0
On salt, the ton - - - -	5	0
On gunpowder, the barrel - - -	2	0
On guns, each - - - -	1	0
On pistols, each - - - -	0	6

On all other goods of every description not enumerated, an ad valorem duty of 4 per cent. on the value of the goods at the port from which the same shall have been imported.

Upon exportation by inland navigation or carriage to Porto Novo, on such conditions as the Governor in Council shall direct, of goods, not being spirits or tobacco, on which the full duties of importation shall have been paid, there shall be drawn back one-half the duties of importation, or upon exportation thereof to parts beyond the seas, two-thirds of such duties shall be drawn back; and goods, not being spirits or tobacco, duly warehoused for security of duties or transhipped for exportation, shall be exported to Porto Novo as aforesaid upon payment of one-half the duties payable upon importation thereof, or to parts beyond the seas upon payment of one-third of the duties upon the importation thereof.

Provided that all the goods exported as aforesaid shall be deemed to be goods exported for drawback.

2. Under Ordinance No. 2 of 1878 there were made certain additions to, and alterations in, the scale of charges for auctioneers' licenses which were found necessary in return for the extension of the provisions of the Ordinance to meet local requirements.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The receipts for 1878 appear as 50,889*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, the expenditure on the votes of the year being 49,735*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, showing an excess of the former over the latter of 1,153*l.* 15*s.* The receipts, however, include remittances in silver to the Settlement by the Crown Agents of 1,500*l.*, and 30*l.* refund of an advance. These amounts, if deducted from the total receipts, will give the actual revenue as 49,359*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

4. As compared with 1877, the revenue will thus show a decrease of 10,030*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure an increase of 7,430*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

5. The revenue during 1877 was unusually large, due to the blockade on the Dahomian coast. The actual exceeded the estimated receipts under the head of "Customs" alone by 12,892*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The revenue during 1878 compares most

favourably with that of previous years, notwithstanding the check that trade must have sustained by the disturbed state of the eastern waters of the lagoon during a considerable portion of the year, and by the Egba and Ibadan war.

6. The following is a comparative statement of the revenue collected in the Settlement during the last four years:—

	£	s.	d.
1875 - - -	43,366	13	0
1876 - - -	46,392	1	2
1877 - - -	59,389	16	0
1878 - - -	49,359	5	4

7. The following table shows the receipts of the two past years:—

Head of Receipts.	1877.			1878.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Customs - -	52,392	12	5	42,057	7	1	—			10,335	5	4
2. Sale of Government property - -	28	9	2	182	19	9	154	10	7	—		
3. Land sales - -	5	6	10	3	6	3	—			2	0	7
4. Land revenue -	77	0	0	8	3	0	—			68	17	0
5. Postage - -	324	5	3	331	1	5	6	16	2	—		
6. Rent exclusive of lands	175	5	3	249	10	4	74	5	1	—		
7. Licenses - -	2,042	0	0	1,980	2	0	—			61	18	0
8. Fees of office -	607	0	3	552	1	11	—			54	18	4
9. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	852	13	7	1,182	1	3	329	7	8	—		
10. Miscellaneous receipts	1,367	2	4	3,241	16	9	1,874	14	5	—		
11. Reimbursements, &c.	1,045	12	3	899	18	5	—			145	13	10
12. Government vessels -	447	7	8	189	2	2	—			258	5	6
13. Special receipts -	25	0	0	2	0	0	—			23	0	0
14. Surcharges recovered	0	1	0	9	15	0	9	14	0	—		
Total - -	59,389	16	0	50,889	5	4	2,449	7	11	10,949	18	7

8. Of the above increases and decreases, those most noticeable are explained as follows:—

9. The decrease under the head of "Customs" is due to the removal of the blockade on the Dahomian coast, to the Egba and Ibadan war, and to the disturbed eastern waters of the lagoon during the first half of the year.

10. "Sale of Government Property" shows an increase of 154*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, which was caused by the sale of the condemned Colonial Government steamer "Eko."

11. The increase under the head of "Miscellaneous Receipts" was due to a remittance by Crown Agents of 1,500*l.*, and to 464*l.* received as interest on investments, the former amount being merely a transfer of money from one account to another, and the latter being actual revenue.

12. Due to the severe epidemic of small-pox at early part of year, there has been an increase of 145*l* 13*s.* 10*d.* under the head of "Disbursements."

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13. The decrease under the head of "Government Vessels" is due to the Government steamer "Nelly" having had to lie up for repairs during a considerable portion of the year, and to the consequent loss of revenue collected as passage money across the bar.

14. The expenditure for the two last years is shown in the following table:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1877.	Expenditure, 1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - -	20,781 8 5	25,615 1 10	4,833 13 5	—
Civil Services exclusive of establishments -	9,684 15 6	9,605 14 2	—	79 1 4
Judicial - - -	139 14 6	142 14 10	3 0 4	—
Pensions - - -	1,484 6 6	1,348 9 10	—	135 16 8
Charitable allowances -	—	—	—	—
Education - -	655 11 0	657 4 2	1 13 2	—
Rent - - -	22 11 7	8 17 5	—	13 14 2
Transport - -	704 6 1	951 7 1	247 1 0	—
Interest - - -	46 15 2	94 9 10	47 14 8	—
Miscellaneous - -	3,361 2 10	4,618 9 2	1,257 6 4	—
Aborigines - -	1,035 4 1	1,101 10 3	66 6 2	—
Drawbacks - -	3,556 0 9	2,923 3 0	—	632 17 9
Liabilities - -	833 11 0	2,668 8 9	1,834 17 9	—
Total - -	42,305 7 5	49,735 10 4	8,291 12 10	861 9 11

15. The most noticeable of these increases and decreases are explained as follows:—

16. In the expenditure for 1878, the sum 2,905*l.* on account of "share of contribution to salaries of high officials, Gold Coast," was charged to "salaries, provisional and temporary," and shown under the head of "Establishments." In the previous year no such provision was made. There was also an increase of 233*l.* provided for in 1878 under the head of "substitutes for officers;" as also provision made for an extra constabulary officer at a cost of 455*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* In 1877, half salaries of several appointments were, in many cases, only issued, while in the following year the full salaries were enjoyed.

17. The above remarks will thus explain the increase in expenditure for the year under the head of "Establishments."

18. In 1877, gratuities were given to Dr. Simpson, Colonial Surgeon, and to Mr. Macaulay, ex-Powder Magazine Keeper, and charged under the head of "Pensions." No issue of the sort took place in 1878—hence decrease.

19. The completion of the purchase in 1878 of the premises constituting the prison accounts for decrease under the head of "Rents."

20. The increase under the head of "Transport" is due to the travelling expenses of the Bishop of Sierra Leone, which were not provided for, and to cost of extra passages beyond what were estimated for as ordinary, which had to be provided for officers invalided during the year.

21. The per-centage charged by Crown Agents is placed under the head of "Interest," and will always vary with the local requirements.

22. The estimates under the head of "Miscellaneous Services" was 1,510*l.*; under this head were charged the following amounts expended on account of purchases which may be considered exceptional, viz., 2,396*l.* in part payment of new Government steamer "Gertrude," 184*l.* on account of town clock, 54*l.* on account of brick presses.

23. The vote "aborigines" was not exceeded; the increase under the head compared with that in 1877 was due to more communications with native chiefs on account of disturbances in eastern waters of lagoon.

24. The vote for drawbacks cannot be accurately estimated for, due to the frequent variation of trade on account of petty warfares and tribal jealousies in the countries surrounding the Settlement.

25. In 1878 the decrease of 632*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* under this head was due to large increase of duty-paid goods exported to Porto Novo in the previous year, consequent on the blockade in the Dahomian coast, which was removed in 1877.

26. The increase under the head of "Liabilities" is due to the following:—The sum of 323*l.* 15*s.* on account of December (1877) salaries to certain officers on leave was paid by Crown Agents and included in 1878 expenditure.

Similarly, 1,452*l.* 10*s.*, in payment of share of contribution to salaries of high officials, Gold Coast, for half year ended 31st December 1877. Instructions have since been issued which will be productive of payments under the latter head being made within the year on account of which they are made.

Public Debt.

27. There is no public debt of the Settlement. On the contrary, at the end of the year there was a balance invested in England by the Crown Agents to the credit of the Settlement amounting to 20,984*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

Military Expenditure.

28. There have been none of Her Majesty's regular troops stationed in this Settlement since June 1870, when they were withdrawn and substituted by Houssa constabulary and civil police. The constabulary and civil police represent the defensive force of the Settlement. The following is the establishment of each component part thereof:—

Constabulary Houssa.

4 assistant inspectors, 1 superintendent, 1 native officer, 2 sergeants-major, 9 sergeants, 10 corporals, 143 privates.

Drummers.

1 drum-major, 2 corporals, 10 privates.

Gunners.

1 sergeant-major, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 16 privates. Total 203.

Civil Police.

1 sub-intendant, 1 sergeant-major, 1 charge clerk, 3 sergeants, 6 corporals, 100 constables. Total 112.

29. The force is armed with the breech-loading Snider rifle 3 7-pounder bronze M.L.R. guns, and rocket troughs. The cost of the above force for the year has been 9,475*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

Public Works.

30. The expenditure on account of public works for the year has been, exclusive of fixed establishment, 4,621*l.* 19*s.*, against 4,336*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, the total votes for the year for the different services. Beyond current repairs to public buildings, the principal works undertaken and completed during the year have been Faji market sheds, new cemetery, Ikoyi Road, the small-pox hospital, and the public latrines. A small portion of the Marina in front of the residence of the Colonial Surgeon was embanked during the year also, and tells to advantage both on sanitary grounds and in appearance.

Legislation.

31. Fourteen Ordinances have been passed by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Colony during the year, the principal of which as affecting this Settlement are as follows:—

No. 2. An Ordinance relating to Sales by Auction.

No. 3. An Ordinance relating to Pilotage in the Harbour of Lagos, and for regulating the said Harbour, and promoting the Health of Seamen therein.

No. 10. An Ordinance for better regulating the Police of Towns and Populous Places, and promoting the Public Health.

32. Ordinance No. 2 took the place of the Ordinance of the Gold Coast, No. 1 of 1867, "to provide for and regulate the office "of Auctioneer in the Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast," and of two Ordinances of Lagos, No. 7 and No. 22 of 1863, "An "Ordinance to regulate the office of Auctioneer," and "An Ordi- "nance to amend an Ordinance intituled an Ordinance to "regulate the office of Auctioneer," and was intended to render the law of sales by auction uniform throughout the Colony. This Ordinance further enables a licensed auctioneer to obtain license at a small rate of duty, authorising persons in his permanent employment to sell by auction as his agents, each in any one district of the province for which the auctioneer is himself licensed.

33. The charges payable for license are accordingly altered in proportion to the additional advantages for which provision has been now made.

34. Ordinance No. 3 has for its object the embodiment as far

as possible of complete provisions for the regulation of the harbour of Lagos and pilotage therein.

35. By it the Ordinance of Lagos, No. 3 of 1868, was repealed. The charges under the Ordinance for medical attendance on seamen on board of ships within the harbour are the same as under Lagos Ordinance of 1868, with certain exemptions now enacted. The rates also payable in the hospital for seamen are what have been in use prior to the passing of the present Ordinance.

36. Prior to the passing of Ordinance No. 10 there was almost an entire absence of all legislation for the police of this Settlement and for sanitary purposes. In consequence, the object of this Ordinance has been to assist in superseding arbitrary and irregular action, and to facilitate the introduction, where practicable, of some measure of system and regularity. It has been made as flexible as possible, and no part of it takes effect until applied by proclamation of the Governor with the concurrence of the Legislative Council, and then only such provisions and to such places as are limited by the proclamation which may from time to time be issued.

37. This Ordinance as respects the whole of its provisions was applied to the town of Lagos by a proclamation bearing date the 13th January of the current year.

Councils and Assemblies.

38. Up to 24th July 1872, the Settlement of Lagos possessed its own Legislative Council when it was abolished by charter on the occasion of the erection of the Gold Coast and Lagos into one Colony under the style of the Gold Coast Colony.

39. There is one Executive Council and one Legislative Council for the two Settlements.

40. The Officer administering the Government of the Settlement is a member of both Councils, and the Assistant Colonial Secretary of Lagos a member of the Legislative Council.

Civil Establishment.

41. His Excellency Lieut.-Governor C. C. Lees, C.M.G., Administrator of Lagos, arrived at Accra from leave of absence on the 24th April, and assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony from the 13th May, on the departure for England on leave of Governor Sir Sanford Freeling.

42. There was only one death among the European officers during the year, namely:—Mr. J. D'A. Dumaresq, C.M.G., on the 9th April, at the time Acting Administrator of the Government of the Settlement.

Consequent on this the administration of the Government of the Settlement was conducted as follows for the remaining portion of the year: by Surgeon-Major Frank Simpson, Colonial Surgeon, from the 9th to 29th April; by Mr. M. J. Brown, then Assistant Colonial Secretary, from the 30th April to the 16th August; by Captain C. A. Moloney, Assistant Colonial Secretary, from the 17th August to the 31st December.

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43. The following appointments have been made during the year:—

Mr. M. J. Brown, Assistant Colonial Secretary, to be Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast Colony:

Captain J. S. Hay, Inspector-General of Constabulary, to be Assistant Colonial Secretary, to do duty at Lagos:

Mr. C. D. Turton to be District Commissioner at Lagos;

Mr. John Smith to be Commissioner of the Eastern District.

44. Two officers were invalided to England, namely: Mr. J. Marshall, Puisne Judge, on the 21st May; and Mr. T. Woodcock, Queen's Advocate of the Colony, and at the time Acting Puisne Judge, on the 14th November.

Pensions.

45. The name of Mr. T. Tickel, late Commissioner of the Western District, has been added to the pension list of this year, with an annuity at the rate of 70*l.* per annum.

46. The total of the pension list for which the Settlement has now to make provision annually is 1,382*l.* 10*s.*

Foreign Consuls.

47. The vacancy in the Danish Consulate, caused by the death on the 10th December 1877 of Mr. H. T. Wadeson, was filled up by the appointment of Mr. Frank Hood, who was confirmed therein as Danish Consul on the 10th October 1878.

48. The appointment of a Portuguese Consul was made during the year, in the person of Mr. J. G. Da Silva, who was confirmed as such on the 6th November 1878.

Population.

49. The population according to the last census, which was taken in 1872, was 60,221, of whom 27,863 were males, and 32,358 were females.

50. Of the above figures, 89 and 5 represented then the males and females of the white portion of the community, and 27,774 and 32,353 the males and females of the coloured population.

51. In a climate like that of West Africa, the white population is continuously changing, due to deaths, illnesses, and other reasons.

52. The following table will give the births, marriages, and deaths for the last four years:—

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1878	197	69	842
1877	201	61	656
1876	198	65	630
1875	170	54	521

53. The increase in the number of deaths in 1878 was due to the epidemic of small-pox and to the subsequent unhealthy season.

Ecclesiastical Return.

54. There are four different religious denominations in the Settlement, statistics as to which are afforded in the following table:—

Religious Denominations.	No. of Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings for Public Worship.		Persons generally attending.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	
Church of England - -	9	14	4,150	2,840
Wesleyan - - -	5	7	1,650	900
Roman Catholic - -	5	2	1,080	500
Baptist - - -	2	1	350	200

55. The above statistics are confined to the Settlement. These missions have, however, many ramifications in the different countries surrounding the Settlement with the exception of the Jebu country, the King of which will not allow any mission to obtain a footing there.

Education.

56. There is no Government school in the Settlement. Education is, I may say, mainly carried on by the different religious denominations.

57. The following particulars are taken from the educational returns rendered by the different missions:—

Religious Denominations.	Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Instructions.	No. of Scholars on Rolls.	Expenditure.		
					£	s.	d.
Church of England -	1878	15	30	1,213	1,588	8	9
Wesleyan - - -	1878	8	18	658	677	7	0
Roman Catholic - -	1878	2	9	300	590	0	0
Baptist - - -	1878	1	2	52	36	0	0

58. A grant of 200*l.* each was made in 1878 by the Government in aid of education to the Church Mission, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic societies.

Imports and Exports.

59. The following table shows the value of the imports into and the exports from the Settlement in the year 1878 as compared with the three previous years:—

Year.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1878	485,502	8	7	577,336	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$
1877	614,359	4	1	734,707	11	$6\frac{1}{2}$
1876	476,812	12	8	619,260	0	2
1875	459,736	19	0	517,535	17	6

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60. In 1878 the imports show a decrease in value of 128,856*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and the exports a decrease of 157,371*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with 1877.

61. In the same year the imports show an increase in value of 8,689*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* and 25,765*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with 1876 and 1875.

62. Compared with 1877, there has been a decrease in the exports of 1878 by 157,371*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and with 1876 a decrease by 41,923*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*; while in 1875 there has been a decrease in that year compared with 1878 of 59,800*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.*

63. The increase in 1877 in the value of the imports and exports was due to the blockade on the Dahomian coast, during which Lagos became the medium of transit of goods over and above the ordinary commercial requirements of the Settlement intended for Porto Novo and elsewhere beyond the jurisdiction.

64. The variations in the other years may be viewed as usual, dependent as the trade of this Settlement is on the state of the European market and on the attitude of the surrounding tribes towards each other, more especially of those bordering on the inland waterway.

65. Panics caused by an epidemic such as that of small-pox, which raged at the early part of the year, also seriously affect trade.

66. The principal articles imported are cotton goods, spirits, wines, ale, provisions, cowries, earthenware, hardware, salt, tobacco, specie, guns, gunpowder, and beads.

67. The exports consist chiefly of beniseed, cotton, ivory, palm kernels, and palm oil.

68. The following table will give separately the value of the exports under the head of "Native and foreign":—

Year.	Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.			British, Foreign, and other (elsewhere) Colonial Produce and Manufactures.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 -	464,570	2	11½	112,765	19	2
1877 -	616,534	2	2½	118,173	9	4
1876 -	541,451	10	2	77,808	10	0
1875 -	459,664	11	6	57,871	6	0

69. The explanations given on the increases and decreases of exports apply equally to the differences shown in the above statistics.

70. The figures given under the head of "Foreign Produce and Manufactures" represent chiefly the value of goods, spirits, &c. imported through Lagos and destined for countries beyond the

Settlement. Advantage can thus be taken of the extensive inland water communication, and the risk of loss of property and life in landing through the surf elsewhere be avoided.

71. The sea beach to the windward of the Settlement is worked when feasible by Gold Coast canoe men. This answers well enough so long as there is no accident, but when anyone of these men happens to lose his life by sharks on the capsizing of a surf boat the remainder abscond "en masse," invariably to Lagos, and refuse to return. Great loss is thus caused to the firms concerned.

72. For the above reason, there happens often a diversion of imports to Lagos for transit elsewhere, which considerably benefits the revenue, and swells the value of what comes under the head of "Foreign Exports."

73. The following is a comparative return of the value of palm oil and palm kernels exported from the Settlement during the last four years:—

Year.	No. of Gallons of Palm Oil.	Value.	No. of Tons of Palm Kernels.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1878 - -	1,570,638	139,094 8 10½	27,874	317,950 16 2
1877 - -	3,304,967	239,133 19 11	30,675	358,591 13 6
1876 - -	1,992,468	192,668 11 1	30,306	331,854 7 3
1875 - -	1,802,946	148,919 0 10	26,455	287,111 12 2

74. The previous remarks under the head of imports and exports apply equally to the causes for the differences in the above.

75. The following return will afford the detail as to exports in palm oil, showing the direction of such during the last four years:—

Year.	Great Britain.		France.		Germany.		Brazils.	
	No. of Gallons of Palm Oil.	Value.	No. of Gallons of Palm Oil.	Value.	No. of Gallons of Palm Oil.	Value.	No. of Gallons of Palm Oil.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1878	642,482	60,107 17 1	544,780	43,087 18 9	221,223	22,078 19 4½	113,933	9,675 9 4
1877	1,011,825	88,385 2 10½	1,768,772	102,330 12 1½	398,075	37,946 0 0	126,295	10,472 4 11
1876	620,758	56,941 11 9	276,963	19,864 17 11	867,084	94,740 11 0	227,663	21,121 10 5
1875	688,324	68,842 8 1	405,176	9,963 5 9	646,737	64,673 14 0	62,709	5,439 13 0

NOTE.—In 1878, 3,810 gallons oil, value 285*l.* 5*s.* were shipped to Porto Novo.
„ 44,410 „ „ 3,858*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* were shipped to Windward Coast.
These exports have not been included in above table.

76. The detail as to exports in palm kernels and the countries to which the same have been directed during the last four years will be found in the following comparative table:—

Year.	Great Britain.		France.		Germany.	
	No. of Tons of Kernels.	Value.	No. of Tons of Kernels.	Value.	No. of Tons of Kernels.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1878	16,600	191,180 6 2	4,430	36,060 0 0	6,844	90,710 10 0
1877	15,789	172,715 3 8	6,442	73,323 9 10	8,444	112,553 0 0
1876	18,242	195,887 17 3	4,251	39,188 10 0	7,361	93,362 0 0
1875	17,039	181,202 0 6	2,366	23,683 10 10	6,908	80,806 0 0

NOTE.—In 1876, 452 tons palm kernels, value 3,416*l.*, were shipped to Windward Coast.
In 1875, 142 „ „ 1,420*l.*, „ „ „
These exports have not been included in above table.

Shipping.

77. The total number of sailing vessels entered for Lagos during 1878 was 150, with a tonnage of 37,631, and crews which amounted to 1,437. In the previous year these numbers appear as 225, 42,492, 2,880. Of the vessels entered in 1878, 40 were British and 110 foreign, viz., 31 French, 48 German, 12 Portuguese, 14 Danish, 4 Norwegian, 1 American.

78. Of the gross tonnage (37,631), 27,081 were foreign.

79. The total number of sailing vessels cleared during the year was 132, with a tonnage of 31,949, and crews which amounted to 1,095. In the previous year these numbers appear respectively as 244, 46,327, 3,189.

80. In 1877 statistics under the head of "Vessels entered and cleared" included the entries and clearances for Porto Novo of local steamers. Hence difference in total for 1878.

81. In the Blue Book for 1878 the steamers that entered from and cleared for Porto Novo are shown separately.

82. The total number of steamers, other than mail steamers, entered for Lagos during the year was 9, with a tonnage of 2,641, and crews which amounted to 235.

83. The number of steamers cleared for the same period was 12, with a tonnage of 3,436, and crews which amounted to 442.

84. The number of mail steamers entered for Lagos during 1878 was 106, with a tonnage of 138,171, and crews which amounted to 5,098.

85. The number of mail steamers cleared for the same time was 104, with a tonnage of 136,692, and crews which amounted to 5,028.

86. The number of local steamers entered during the year from places situated on the waters of the lagoon have been 101, with a tonnage of 5,029, and a crew of 1,590.

87. The numbers of steamers cleared for like places has been 107, with a tonnage of 7,173, and crews which amounted to 1,785.

Manufactures.

88. The following articles, which are made in the country, may be placed under this head, viz., salt, bricks, lime, earthenware, cloths, dyes, mats, and fancy works in leather and straw.

Gaols and Prisoners.

89. The total number of persons committed in 1878 was 330, viz., 304 men and 26 women, as compared with 319 in the previous year.

90. Ten deaths have occurred during the year, compared with 5 in the previous year. Inquests have been held on every occasion of a death during 1878. The verdict returned by the jury on each occasion was death from natural causes.

91. The total cost of the gaol department during the year has been 1,788*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* The prison is on the associated system. The buildings are most insecure and ill-adapted to prison purposes: untried prisoners and those detained for want of sureties have at times to be associated with convicts.

92. Owing to the nature of the accommodation, proper discipline cannot be enforced. It is earnestly hoped, in the interests of the Settlement, that the contemplated new gaol will soon show itself a reality.

Criminal Statistics.

93. The following is a comparative table of the number of persons apprehended and summoned during the past four years:—

Explanation.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Number of persons apprehended and summoned	949	1,060	971	1,099

94. Of the above figures for 1878, 104 persons were discharged for want of prosecution by the party complaining, or on insufficient evidence; 71 cases were dismissed on the merits; 669 persons were summarily convicted, and 105 were committed for trial in the superior Court.

95. Of the persons committed for trial in the superior Court, there was judgment for the Crown in 75 cases, for the prisoners in 25, and 5 cases fell through for want of prosecution.

Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Charitable Institutions.

96. There are two hospitals in the Settlement, one for the treatment of ordinary diseases, the other for the treatment of those attended with contagion or infection. Both are admirably kept, well adapted for the purposes for which they are intended, and are conveniently situated.

97. During the year 1878, 563 patients were admitted into the Colonial Hospital. Of these, 531 were males and 32 females. These figures show an increase of 197 patients over the number

LAGOS.

returned for 1877, which is due to the fact that a severe epidemic of small-pox raged at the early part of the year, followed up by the most unhealthy season for years previous in the recollection of some of the old native inhabitants of the place.

98. The principal diseases treated were those classed under the following heads, viz., small-pox, fevers, cutaneous, digestive, surgical, and Guinea worm.

99. Two hundred and one cases of small-pox were treated during the year, 74 of which proved fatal. In 1877 there were 41 cases of small-pox, of which 16 ended fatally.

100. The following comparative statement affords interesting statistics which speak for themselves of the success with which vaccination is worked under the able management of the Colonial Surgeon :—

Year.	Total Number vaccinated.	Unsuccessful.	Successful.
1872 -	1,587	13	1,574
1873 -	533	8	525
1874 -	3,625	73	3,552
1875 -	14,157	809	13,348
1876 -	12,633	1,293	11,340
1877 -	30,630	2,436	28,194
1878 -	30,214	1,107	29,107
Total -	93,379	5,739	87,640

101. The cost of the medical department for the year has been 3,117*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, against which the hospital receipts under the head of "Reimbursements in Aid," have been 520*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

102. There is no lunatic asylum nor charitable institution in the Settlement. A room in the gaol is made use of when required for female lunatics, and similar accommodation is provided for male lunatics in the debtors' prison.

103. Like arrangements are made, when necessary, for paupers.

104. The cost connected with the food and clothing of such persons is borne by the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Lees, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 17.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, St. Helena, January 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1878 with the following brief observations upon the returns contained therein.

Revenue.

2. The returns of revenue have been favourable, amounting to 14,197*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, being an increase on the last year of 1,416*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, and an excess of 1,545*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* over the estimate for the year. The increase is caused chiefly by additional receipts for wharfage in the Customs Department.

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure amounts to 12,814*l.* 19*s.* 5½*d.*, being an excess over the estimate of 853*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.*, and if to this be added the amount (about 600*l.*) paid to pensioners resident at the Cape of Good Hope during 1878 (of which no accounts have been received), the actual excess would amount to about 1,450*l.*

4. This excess over the estimate arises from a special expenditure of 1,473*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* in repairing damages caused by a heavy flood which occured in April 1878.

5. The flood resembled in its magnitude one that is described in the records as occurring in June 1756, and certainly exceeded any other flood that has happened in the interval.

6. The private losses occasioned by it amounted probably to about 3,000*l.*, but confined chiefly to five or six persons engaged in trade whose warehouses were situated near the point where the waters broke away from their channel in consequence of the culvert being filled and choked by the enormous masses of rock, &c. brought down by the torrent.

7. A loss to a similar amount will fall upon the Government in clearing the culvert and repairing the damages to roads and waterworks, of which 1,474*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* has been expended to the end of 1878.

8. It is this expenditure which has caused an excess over the estimate, but happily owing to the increase of revenue the unex-

ST. HELENA. pected charge has been provided for without serious inconvenience although its occurrence has reduced the net surplus of revenue from 2,200*l.* to about 800*l.*

Public Debt.

9. The amount under this head has been further lessened by the payment of the annual instalment of 750*l.* off the debentures, which are now reduced to 12,250*l*, and which form the total debt of the Colony.

Council.

10. Under Her Majety's Warrant of 8th July 1878, the Executive Council has been increased by the addition to it of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop, and of Mr. George Moss, the Sheriff of the Island.

Pensions.

11. This list amounts to 2,984*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, and has been decreased in the year by the deaths of Mr. Stephen Pritchard 50*l.* per annum, Henry Holland 18*l.* 5*s.*, and Shaik Adam 19*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, and increased by the additions of pensions to Thomas Carter, policeman, 34*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*, and John Smith, policeman, 26*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

Trade.

12. The imports amount to 60,604*l.* against 70,025*l.*, and the exports to 12,653*l.* against 2,228*l.* in 1877.

13. In the exports for 1878 is included 5,800*l.* for whale oil taken in 1877 but not exported until the following year.

14. The growth and preparation of fibre for export is proceeding satisfactorily. The machinery, which in 1877 consisted of seven machines worked by one engine, has been increased to 16 machines worked by two engines. The alteration caused a suspension in the works during the first half of the year, and only 100 bales have been actually shipped as against 243 in 1877, but 400 bales have been prepared ready for shipment, and at the present rate of working it is anticipated that 1,500 bales weighing 400 lbs. each will be prepared in the present year.

15. The shipping calling at this port for supplies amounted to 664 in 1877 and 669 in the year 1878, of the following nationalities:—

British -	418	German -	21
American	84	Italian -	26
Austrian	1	Norwegian	16
Dutch -	38	Portuguese	2
Danish -	2	Spanish -	2
French -	39	Swedish -	20

Or otherwise classified: as vessels of war	-	-	10
„ „ steamers -	-	-	46
„ „ merchant ships	-	-	564
„ „ whalers -	-	-	49
Total	-	-	669

Criminal Statistics.

16. I am glad to say that these returns continue to show the absence of serious crime. The only case in the Supreme Court was one tried in January last for embezzlement committed in the preceding year. During the course of 1878 there has not been a single case of an indictable offence, nor a lawsuit of any kind amongst the inhabitants, and the last four Quarter Sessions of the Supreme Court have been all of them maiden sessions.

17. The cases in the Police Court have been as usual chiefly cases connected with seamen from the passing shipping, and disorderly women who associate with them, the total number being 268 or 90 less than the preceding year.

Hospitals and Asylums.

18. The admissions to the Civil Hospital were 137 or 44 less than in 1877.

19. The number of lunatics in the asylum remained the same as last year, five males and two females.

20. The year has been generally healthy throughout the Island the total deaths amongst the inhabitants was 69, of which 26 were infants, and 18 aged persons from 70 to over 90 years of age.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

LABUAN.

No. 18.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Labuan, December 26, 1878.

IN the absence in England on sick leave of Governor Ussher, I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual Blue Book returns of the Island of Labuan for the year 1877, together with a short summary of the events of the year in elucidation of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. TREACHER,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

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1. *Revenue.*

Amount collected in 1877, $35,956, (7,490*l.*) Amount expended in 1877, $38,378, (7,995*l.*), the expenditure thus exceeding the revenue, a result which, however, would have been reversed had the Oriental Coal Company been in a position to pay their annual rental for the mines, viz., $4,800.00.

Another cause of this excess of payments over receipts is to be found in the large amount expended under the head of special payments, *i.e.*, payments for which no provision was made in the estimates, and which amounted to $4,701.71, including a sum of $3,170.00 in connexion with the purchase of a small Colonial steamer. The deficit was easily met from the surplus funds to the credit of the Colony, and on the 31st December 1877 the balance of the Colonial assets over its liabilities amounted to $35,568 or 7,410*l.*, which sum, however, included some $18,000.00 due by the Coal Company for arrears of rental. The least satisfactory feature in the accounts of the year in question, as of several previous years, is the large proportion which the profit yielded by the sale of the copper coinage of the Straits Settlements bears to the whole revenue, about 23 per centum; the receipts from this source amounting to $8,277.00 in 1877.

This item must soon cease almost entirely, and the financial state of the Island cannot be viewed with complete satisfaction so long as its revenue is only made equal to its expenditure by means of it. The sources of revenue were the same as in previous years—the principal being "Excise licenses farmed out," which realized $21,900.00, against $21,120.00 in 1876, and "profit on the sale of copper coinage," as above-mentioned, $8,277.00; the amount realized in the previous year having been one of $12,134.00.

The "Excise licenses farmed out" are those of opium, tobacco, spirits, Market (fish), and pawnbroking. Of these the opium is by far the most important, and realised in 1877 $13,200.00. The tax is only levied on the preparation of opium for consumption, and the retailing thereof in the Colony, the export trade being entirely free; but by arrangement with the Sultan of Brunei's farmers, and partly owing to a clause in the Labuan Opium Ordinance, enabling the Government to prohibit the export of this drug to places in the neighbourhood whence there is a likelihood of its being smuggled back into the Colony, our farmers have, to a great extent, in their own hands the opium supply of the opposite coast of Borneo, and thus are enabled to pay the large sum mentioned; large, that is, when it is considered that the Chinese population of Labuan does not much exceed 700, not all of whom consume opium. The export trade to the Sulu Archipelago is perfectly unfettered.

The only farm which appears at all unpopular with the natives is the Fishmarket Farm. At present, within a certain area, the sale of fish is a complete monopoly in the hands of the Chinese farmer, who, however, is compelled to purchase fish from the fishermen, and to retail them to the people at prices fixed by a committee appointed by the Government, and I do not think that as a rule fish are more expensive here than at Singapore. Still however fish, in both the fresh and dried state, is the staple food of the community—Chinese, Malay, and Indian, and fishing is the occupation of a considerable proportion of our Brunei Malays, and, whatever the reason, it is certain that the abolition of the monopoly would be hailed with delight by all. Complaints, too, are made of the skill of the Chinese market lessees in weighing the fish brought in by the boats, a skill for which it is said they are everywhere famed. The law gives the Government the alternative of letting out the markets in stalls; but if this were done the revenue would suffer, and it is not in a state as yet to bear reduction.

During 1877 some saving was effected in the amount payable for salaries—fixed establishments (the principal items in the expenditure) by order of the Secretary of State for the Colonies—the services of two officers being dispensed with. In 1876 the heads of departments were as follows:—

	£
1. Governor - - - - -	800
2. Colonial Secretary - - - -	300
Auditor - - - - -	50
3. Treasurer - - - - -	300
4. Surveyor General - - - -	500
5. Colonial Surgeon - - - -	325
6. Chief Constable and 2 Sergeants - -	295
7. Police Magistrate and Harbour Master -	500
	£3,070

In 1877 these were re-arranged thus:—

	£
1. Governor - - - - -	800
2. Colonial Secretary, Auditor, and Police Magistrate - - - -	500
3. Treasurer and Harbour Master - -	400
4. Surveyor General - - - -	500
5. Colonial Surgeon - - - -	325
6. Chief Constable and 1 Sergeant - -	270
	£2,795

Economy in this direction has probably now reached its limit, though in case of necessity the services of a Surveyor General might be dispensed with temporarily, as no land is being sold at present, and no public works of importance are contemplated.

The following is a return of the revenue and expenditure of the Island for the last 10 years, taken from the several Blue Book returns:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Profit on Copper Coin.
	£	£	£
1868	4,760*	7,375†	—
1869	5,528	6,237	—
1870	7,158	7,301	—
1871	7,115	8,226	—
1872	7,079	7,518	—
1873	6,917	7,090	—
1874	7,083	7,187	744
1875	8,757	6,721	3,340
1876	9,429	7,578	2,527
1877	7,490	7,995	1,724

An inspection of the above table will show that the revenue of the Island has never in any one year equalled the expenditure without the assistance of the profit derived from the sale of copper coin. In considering these figures, too, it should be borne in mind that during the years 1871, 1872, and 1873 a monopoly of the *export* trade in opium existed, which was, to the great benefit of the trading community, abolished in 1874, with the necessary result of a decrease of the revenue derived from the Opium Farm, which is now a monopoly of the *retail* trade only.

2. *Public Works.*

The only public work of any importance carried on during 1877 was the completion of the Fish Market, which was commenced in the preceding year. It is a substantial plank building designed by Mr. Roach, the Surveyor-General of the Colony, 80

* Exclusive of 183*l.*, expense of remitting Parliamentary Grant.
† Exclusive of 3,533*l.* Parliamentary Grant.

feet by 50, built on strong piles over the water in Victoria Harbour, and roofed with Sarawak hard wood shingles. In addition to its utility as a market it affords a commodious landing place for boats. The piles were driven by convict labour, and the building itself was contracted for by a local Chinese carpenter for the sum of $1,400.00. The total cost of the market, exclusive of the labour of the convicts, was $2,786.00. It was opened to the public on the 28th November, and was named the "Ussher Market," in honour of his Excellency the Governor. The "Market Farm" was let at the close of 1877, for 1878, for the monthly sum of $265 or $3,180.00 for the year, so that its original cost was soon repaid.

3. *Legislation.*

In this year for the first time an attempt was made to regulate prostitution by "An Ordinance (No. 1 of 1877) to prevent the "spread of certain contagious diseases." This Ordinance is similar to that in force in the Straits Settlements, of which it is a copy with slight alterations to adapt it to the smaller circumstances of Labuan, and was called for by the importation of several Chinese prostitutes from Singapore.

Amongst the Malay women prostitution is not carried on on a systematic scale, and the women are not, as a rule, collected into brothels as with the Chinese; but owing to the fact that the majority of the inhabitants are Mahomedans, whose wives in their native land are liable to severe punishments in case of a fall, as is also the seducer, from which they are entirely exempt in Labuan, and also to the fact that the males outnumber the females, their morality must, I am afraid, be considered decidedly low. It is this, what may be termed "solitary prostitution," that it is so difficult to deal with effectually. The Ordinance, with certain amendments, has received Her Majesty's confirmation and allowance, but during 1877 no steps were taken to carry it into effect, beyond proclaiming it. A marriage law in some shape or another is a crying want in the Island. Very nearly all the murders which have been committed in Labuan during the last eight years have originated in quarrels concerning the wife of either the perpetrator or the victim. Mahomedan marriages are not recognized in the courts of the Island, and, in consequence, the marriage tie, except in the case of a few persons of a somewhat superior position in life than the majority, is of the weakest. There is no provision for the registration of Mahomedan marriages, and the community are not, apparently, wealthy enough to support an Emaum.

Of the Government proclamations and notifications published during the year, two only were of much local interest. Both referred to the trade with the Sulu Archipelago—one announcing that the authorities would issue free clearances to British vessels for any part of the Sulu Archipelago, while the other published the text of a protocol respecting the freedom of commerce and navigation in the Sulu Archipelago, signed at Madrid on the 11th March 1877, by the representatives of Great Britain, Spain,

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and Germany. The chief points of this protocol were:—1. That in parts of the Sulu Islands not effectively occupied by Spain, *i.e.*, at which that Power did not maintain a suitable establishment of officers, &c., trade of foreign nations should not be in any way affected by Spanish laws or regulations. 2. That in parts of the Archipelago effectively occupied by her, foreign trade would be liable to the operation of Spanish customs and sanitary laws, but that the tariff enforced would not be higher than that fixed by the tariffs of Spain or by treaties between Spain and other powers. Previous to the execution of this protocol, vessels not under the Spanish flag were prohibited by proclamation of the Captain-General of the Philippines from visiting any port in the Sulu Archipelago, unless driven in by stress of weather, the Spanish Government at the time not having a footing in any of the Islands. In consequence of this regulation several vessels, mostly of German nationality, trading to Sulu ports, were seized, and in 1875 the "Sultana," a steam yacht the property of His Highness the Sultan of Brunei, chartered by Labuan merchants, was taken possession of by vessels of the Philippine navy and detained as a prize. Claims for compensation have been made by the Labuan merchants through the Imperial Government, but no settlement of them has yet been arrived at. Towards the close of 1876 the British ship "Flower of Yarrow," clearing from Labuan, was twice refused permission to trade at the Island of Sulu, and the German steamer "Tony," also connected in a manner with the trade of the Island, was seized when leaving the port of Meimbong, Sulu. She was subsequently given up to the British Government, owing to some unexplained mistake as to her nationality, and a charge of complicity in the slave trade was preferred against her master, who died soon afterwards. The claims preferred by the owners of the "Flower of Yarrow" are not yet settled.

It should be mentioned that in 1876 the Philippine Government again attacked Banua or Sugh, the ancient capital of Sulu, this time in force, and obtained a footing there, and established a Settlement which has already attracted many Chinese traders from Manilla, and, as it has been declared an entirely free port, it is rapidly absorbing the trade of the Archipelago, and will prove a formidable rival to Labuan, which is unequally weighted in the struggle, in the first place by having to raise an independent revenue for itself by means of "farms" and internal taxes, whereas the expenses of the Government of the Sulu Settlement are defrayed from the Philippine treasury; and in the second place by being disadvantageously situated with regard to the Sulu Islands, Banua being on the contrary in a central position. A comparison between the soil of Banua and Labuan would be even more to the disadvantage of the latter.

On the 6th August 1877 a small British steamer of 113 tons burthen, named the "Far East," commenced plying regularly between Labuan and Meimbong, the Sultan's port in Sulu, touching also at ports on the east and north-west coast of Borneo.

4. *Civil Establishment.*

The changes effected in the fixed establishment with a view to economy have been already referred to in paragraph 1 of this summary. It remains to be added that in February the Island lost the services of Mr. Hugh Low, who was in that month promoted to be British Resident in Perak. Mr. Low entered the Labuan civil service in 1848, and during his lengthened career filled at various times almost every post in it; having been acting as Governor for more or less prolonged periods amounting in the whole to nearly five years. By the death of Mr. Falvey, the gaoler, an ex-sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary, from a fall from his pony, the service lost an intelligent and painstaking officer.

5. *Education.*

The Labuan Free National School, established by Governor Sir Henry Bulwer in 1873, continued its good work during 1877. It is only made use of by the children of the Chinese and Malay residents in the town of Victoria, the distance from Coal Point being too great to admit of scholars attending thence, while the country people fail to avail themselves in any way of the advantages of free education for their children. The average daily attendance in 1877 was 19. English, Malay, and Arithmetic are taught, but the early age at which the lads leave school renders impossible any great proficiency being attained by them in the English language.

A new detached school house at a little distance out of the town is urgently needed.

The amount of the Government grant is but $60 per annum; the voluntary subscriptions amounted to $256.80, exclusive of $100, granted by Governor Ussher, being the proceeds of the sale of the surplus fruit grown in the grounds of Government House. The expense of the school was $336.70. The system of payments by results has not yet been adapted.

6. *Trade.*

Total value of imports in 1877, 152,454*l.*

Total value of exports in 1877, 151,207*l.*

Showing an increase in imports over those of the previous year (1876) to the value of 25,860*l*, and in exports of 38,211*l.*

The following table shows the value of the imports and exports for the period 1872–1877.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1872	129,198	134,984
1873	77,749	84,703
1874	89,978	99,104
1875	119,362	114,332
1876	126,594	112,996
1877	152,454	151,207

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The figures for 1877 are larger than those for any year since the settlement of the Island.

Three causes may be mentioned for the gradual increase in the value of the imports and exports :—

1. The repeal by Sir Henry Bulwer in 1874 of the Ordinances which made the export trade in opium and tobacco a monopoly in the hands of a Chinese farmer.

2. The Sulu protocol which opened the trade of the Sulu Archipelago, and occasioned the withdrawal from Sandakan of a German merchant from Singapore, who had flourished while the Spanish blockade kept from Sulu all rivals, while he himself, without difficulty, eluded the vigilance of the Philippine fleet. The withdrawal of this rival trading station at Sandakan is partly also attributable to the first cause I have mentioned; for during the continuance of the trade monopoly of opium and tobacco, traders from the free port of Singapore were able to undersell those of Labuan. The trade thus formerly diverted from Labuan now helps to enrich our traders, and a small steamer runs with some regularity to Sulu, touching at Sandakan and other ports in North Borneo.

3. A third cause is the greater interest taken in affairs on the coast of Borneo, and the greater protection afforded to Chinese and other traders proceeding thither from Labuan, since the assumption of the Government by Governor Ussher. For some time previous to Mr. Ussher's arrival, a Malay of some rank had been permitted to range about, murdering and plundering our traders settled on the coast at the head of an increasing following, until his career was cut short by the Governor's prompt action. When Labuan was first settled it appears to have been thought that the mere act of hoisting the British flag in that little Island would cause the trade of Borneo and Sulu to rush thither. This expectation has been sadly disappointed, and necessarily so. Trade cannot exist in a country where there is no protection for life and property, no means of recovering debt, in fact, no Government which is the case in this portion of Borneo. The mere fact of a few British officials residing in a neighbouring Island could not remedy this state of affairs, and as a consequence, the trade of the country is not yet developed. On the other hand, our neighbours the Spaniards, with commendable energy, are extending their power over the surrounding Islands. They have occupied the rich Island of Palawan, and also Balabae, without so much as intimating the fact to the Sultan of Brunei, of whose kingdom they once formed a part, and, after a long struggle, the Sulu Archipelago has also been appropriated by them. The original expectation, therefore, of the Sulu trade finding its way to Labuan can scarcely now be realized; while that of Borneo remains undeveloped for the reasons I have mentioned, and there is a possibility of its being hereafter diverted from us by a British company.

However zealous the Labuan officials may be, they cannot exert their just influence on the coast so long as they have no

means of communication therewith other than that afforded by the occasional and reluctant visits of gunboats, anxious to perform their duties and to return to more civilized regions in as short a time as possible. A Colonial vessel of some description is much needed at Labuan.

As Labuan produces and exports nothing of its own with the exception of a little coal and a still smaller quantity of timber, it is only necessary to examine the return of imports to arrive at a knowledge of the state of trade.

The most important article of import is the raw sago from Borneo, for its manufacture into sago flour for exportation gives employment to many Chinese Coolies in the three factories which exist in the Island. There is, I regret to state, a falling off in the value of the raw sago imported in 1877 as compared with 1876, the figures being: 1876, 18,822*l.*; 1877, 16,456*l.* The value of the flour manufactured and exported together with that imported from the factories of Labuan merchants on the coast of Borneo in 1875 was 32,880*l.*; in 1876, 31,151*l.*; and in 1877, 42,299*l.** The most marked increase during 1877 was in the articles imported from the Sulu Archipelago and the Sulu Sultan's possessions in Borneo, for reasons I have already alluded to; for instance the value of the beeswax rose from 664*l.* in 1876 to 1,325*l.* in 1877, birds' nests from 4,000*l.* to 8,900*l.*, camphor from 3,414*l.* to 4,317*l.*, and pearl shell from 1,011*l.* to 2,948*l.* To purchase this increased amount of imports there were imported from Singapore in 1877 cotton cloths to the value of 42,074*l.* against 27,522*l.* in 1876, brassware 2,073*l.* against 1,276*l.* muskets 2,124*l.* against 970*l.* &c.

I subjoin a comparative table for 1876 and 1877 of the values of the most important articles of import.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the most important ARTICLES of IMPORT into LABUAN during the years 1876 and 1877.

Articles.	Value in 1876.	Value in 1877.
From Sulu Archipelago and Borneo.	£	£
Beeswax	664	1,325
Birds' nests	4,004	8,902
Camphor	3,414	4,317
Gutta percha and rubber	3,085	2,890
Pearls (including seed pearls)	3,003	1,265
Pearl shell	1,011	2,948
Rattans	3,075	2,504
Sago flour	8,395	14,095
Sago raw	18,822	16,456
Tobacco (Borneo)	7	94
Tortoiseshell	2,091	1,548
	47,571	56,344

* Raw sago undergoes two washings. One picul of the unwashed sago yields 35 to 40 catties of flour. A picul of the once-washed sago yields 10 catties of flour. The average price of raw sago during 1877 was $0.90 to $1 per picul, and of flour $2.70 to $2.80 per picul.

Articles.	Value in 1876.	Value in 1877.
From Singapore :—	£	£
Brass ware - - - -	1,276	2,073
Cloth (cottons) - - - -	27,522	42,074
Gunpowder - - - -	189	726
Muskets - - - -	970	2,124
Opium - - - - -	2,138	2,841
Rice (and from Hong Kong) - -	6,792	6,604
Salt (and from Hong Kong) - -	1,023	412
Tobacco - - - -	922	1,612
Copper coinage* - - -	10,416	7,533
Dollars - - - - -	3,250	806
Gunny bags† - - - -	1,146	1,019
Machinery‡ - - - -	4,749	2,185
From Singapore - - -	60,893	70,009
From Borneo and Sulu - -	47,571	56,344
Grand Total - - -	108,464	126,353

7. *Shipping.*

Entered in 1876.

		Tons.
Sailing vessels -	17 - -	2,027
Steam „ -	18 - -	5,073
Total entered	35 - -	7,100

Cleared in 1876.

Sailing vessels -	16 - -	1,654
Steam „ -	19 - -	5,179
Total cleared	35 - -	6,833

Entered in 1877.

Sailing vessels -	7 - -	1,346
Steam „ -	26 - -	7,885
Total entered	33 - -	9,231

Cleared in 1877.

Sailing vessels -	8 - -	1,719
Steam „ -	24 - -	7,511
Total cleared	32 - -	9,230

* Imported by the Government for sale to the traders of Labuan and Brunei.
† Imported only for packing sago flour for export.
‡ Imported for the coal mines solely.

The above figures show an increase in 1877 of 2,131 tons entered, and of 2,397 tons cleared.

If acccount is taken only of vessels returned as "with cargoes" leaving out those "in ballast," the comparison is still more favourable for the year under review:—

	Tons.
Steam and sailling vessels entered with cargoes in 1876, 24 vessels - - - - -	5,894
Steam and sailing vessels cleared with cargoes in 1876, 25 vessels - - - - -	5,743
Steam and sailing vessels entered with cargoes in 1877, 26 vessels - - - - -	7,254
Steam and sailing vessels cleared with cargoes in 1877, 28 vessels - - - - -	8,044

This partly results from the S. S. "Far East" having been put on the trade between Labuan and Sulu; the Singapore merchant who previously had a station at Sandakan having withdrawn his establishment in 1877. The vessel which brought his produce up to Labuan from Sandakan was always returned as "in ballast," since her cargo was merely transhipped to another vessel in the harbour, and not being owned by Labuan traders was not included in the returns of imports and exports.

During the year also a Chinese firm from Hong Kong settled in Labuan and exported their produce direct to Hong Kong, whereas previously all the Labuan trade had passed through Singapore. A sailing vessel is chartered by them as required, and there is no regular communication with Hong Kong, nor indeed with any other port than Singapore, and this is effected by one steamer making some 15 or 16 voyages a year.

8. *Agriculture.*

The soil of Labuan as a rule is extremely poor though in the plains a moderately fertile black vegetable mould is found. In these plains padi is grown chiefly by the Kadayans, the Mahomedan agricultural race of Borneo proper. This padi is first sown thick (samie) on the dry hill sides about the month of May or June, and after two months time is transplanted to the plains (munanam) which in the wet season are covered with water. The harvest is reaped (mungatum) in January or February. Only one crop is raised in the year, and the yield is now small. The native mode of cultivation is of the rudest possible description. The wood and young jungle on the plains are cut down when the time comes with a "purang" or cutlass, and burnt, the soil is scratched with the same implement, a hole is made with a pointed stick and four or five roots of padi inserted. Irrigation is scarcely attempted at all. A very different system is adopted by the people of Bundu, on the opposite Borneo coast, whom I recently visited, and who are said to be descendants of Chinese immigrants. Their mode of irrigation is almost perfect, and they use an iron shod wooden plough, a harrow, a roller, and the treading ot buffaloes in the preparation of the soil. In 1876 461 acres of swamp land were let out for padi planting, at from

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50 cents to $1 00 per acre, and a crop, which in former years would have been considered very unsatisfactory, but which now passes as an average one, was reaped early in 1877 In 1877 387 acres were let, but this crop proved almost a total failure, owing to a drought which, commencing in December 1877, continued for many months in 1878, and during which extensive jungle fires prevailed, extending into the plains and consuming the standing rice. Hill or dry rice (padi tugal), one variety of which comes to maturity in three and the other in six months, is not now planted in the Island, all the hills, which on account of the sterility of the soil appear only capable of producing one crop after the jungle has been cut down, having been exhausted. It is much to be regretted that the valuable timber trees which formerly clothed these hills, and which are now replaced by useless or worse than useless fern and scrub, were suffered to be destroyed for the sake of one inferior crop of rice. Even in a good season the rice grown is scarcely more than sufficient for the wants of the planters themselves.

A little sugar cane is still grown on the sides of some of the hills, and a coarse kind of uncrystallized sugar is manufactured therefrom, but the cane is small, and the amount of sugar produced is inappreciable and decreasing yearly.

Cocoanuts would probably thrive well in many parts of the Colony, especially in a tract on the south-west side of the Island ; but the time required before a tree bears fruit, about 10 years in this soil, prevents the natives, who are possessed of no capital, from entering upon their cultivation on a large scale. A considerable cocoanut plantation established by a European on one of the outlying Islands has proved fairly successful, and produces annually about 250 piculs of oil, manufactured from such of the nuts as are not exported to the coast for consumption. The yield of nuts in 1877 was 204,000; and the acreage of the plantation is 250 acres, more or less.

In July a few hundred seeds of the African oil palm (Elœis Guineevisis), kindly forwarded to the Colony by Sir Joseph Hooker on the suggestion of Governor Ussher, were planted on the same Island as an experiment, and have thriven remarkably well so far, standing an unprecedented drought of many months duration, which killed some of the neighbouring cocoanut trees. Should the experiment prove successful it may perhaps be a matter for consideration whether the tract of country alluded to above as suitable for cocoanut plantation, and which comprises some 400 acres, should not be taken up by Government and planted with this palm, the want of capital and enterprise amongst the natives precluding them from such an undertaking unaided. The preparation of the oil from the fruit is a very simple operation, and Governor Ussher, who has had experience of the palm in West Africa, considers it adapted to the Malay genius.

The sago palm is not cultivated in Labuan, the raw sago which supplies the factories of the Island being procured from the opposite coast of Borneo, where vast forests of this palm exist.

Cattle thrive well in Labuan, and as they are not used for purposes of draught or burden, for which buffaloes are employed, their flesh affords beef of a superior quality, and a profitable trade in them to Singapore might arise were it not for the high price for freight charged by the solitary steamer which plies between the Island and that port.

9. *Mines.*

The Oriental Coal Company continued during the year their efforts to develop the coal mines, but their enterprise has not yet met with success. It is a matter of some surprise that this company, after so many years of failure, do not commission an experienced mining engineer to proceed to Labuan and report to them the causes of the inability of their several managers to open out the colliery, and as to the steps which should now be taken to ensure success.

10. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

The average daily number of prisoners of all classes confined in the gaol during 1877 was 74·7, a considerable decrease as compared with the number in 1876, which was 97. This decrease is not due to there having been less crime in the Colony, but to the fact that no further importations of convicts are received into the gaol from Hong Kong or the Straits Settlements, and also to the operation of the ticket-of-leave system, which is in force in the case of convicts under sentence of 10 years and upwards. Our local prisoners would not average more than between 40 and 50. With the sanction of the Secretary of State the practice of depriving Chinese prisoners undergoing sentences of five years imprisonment and upwards of their pigtails was discontinued, and the limit fixed at 10 years or over. This punishment is severely felt as a mark of degradation by the Chinese, and there is no punishment similarly affecting the prisoners of Malay or other nationality.

The night supervision of the transmarine convicts, who, as well as the other prisoners, sleep in associated wards, was improved by the substitution of a police sentry, relieved every three hours, in the place of the two convict mandones who formerly slept in the corridor.

The actual cost of the gaol in 1876 was 838*l.*, and in 1877, 694*l.*; 115*l.* were received in payment for the services of convicts hired out to the public.

The number of convictions in the Superior Court was but 16, against 25 in 1876, 28 in 1875, and 28 in 1874. One very exceptional case is included in the above figures. A party of Muruts having set out from the neighbourhood of the Brunei River for the purpose of obtaining a head along the coast, and meeting with no success, was blown over by contrary winds to the south end of Labuan, when, finding the natives living in fancied security, they could not resist so good an opportunity, and a Kadayan passing down the river alone in a boat, was murdered by them and his head carried off in triumph. The headman and two others

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were arrested and sent over to Labuan by the Sultan. The headman died in confinement before his trial, of the remaining two, one was executed, and the other, who proved to be a slave, was pardoned.

(Signed) W. H. TREACHER.

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No. 19.

Acting-Governor TREACHER to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Labuan,
July 17, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual returns composing the Blue Book of the Colony of Labuan for the year 1878.

2. There is but little change to be reported in the condition or prospects of the Colony during the year.

Revenue.

3. The total revenue received was $35,609 72, or if the profit on the sale of copper coin, on the nature of which I commented in my report for 1877, is deducted, viz., $4,751 34, the actual revenue was $30,858 38, as against $22,848 in 1868, $33,979 20 in 1872,* and $33,129 60† in 1876.

The source of revenue by which the comparative prosperity of the Colony is most easily gauged is that of "Excise licenses farmed out," namely, opium, tobacco, spirits, fish market, and pawnbroking. These in 1878 produced $23,040, the largest sum that has been realised since the abolition of the monopoly of the export trade in opium, as the following figures show: In 1874 the value of the farms amounted to $19,104, in 1875 to $17,400, in 1876 to $21,120, and in 1877 to $21,900.

One new source of revenue was created in 1878, persons who had built houses on Crown lands having been called upon to pay a monthly rental of 50 cents, or $6 per annum, which is the amount of the annual quit-rent of a lot of town land. Only $86 50 were received from this source, and the payment was imposed less with the object of raising a revenue than of protecting those who had purchased town land and erected houses thereon and then found them tenantless, in consequence of their expected tenants being permitted to build hovels on Crown land without payment. In obedience to your instructions this practice has been forbidden, and the huts previously built will not be renewed on their falling into decay.

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* In 1872 the monopoly of the whole trade in opium was a source of revenue, since discontinued.

† In 1876 the coal company paid $7,200 rental, in 1878 only $2,400.

Expenditure.

4. The payments during 1878 amounted to $34,619 86, leaving a balance of revenue of $989 86. The expenditure of 1877 was $38,378 28, and of 1876, $36,375 18. The decrease in the payments of 1878 occurred principally in the fixed establishment and in the gaol, owing partly to the Surveyor-General and Superintendent of Convicts being absent on half salary during the greater part of the year, while it was not found necessary to appoint an officer to act in his place, the Colonial Secretary taking over the general supervision of the Public Works and Convict Departments, and owing also to the decrease in the number of inmates of the gaol, no transmarine convicts from Hong Kong or Singapore being now received at Labuan. The expenditure on public works, roads, harbour beacons, &c. was not stinted, some $4,500 having been expended on these necessary services, as against $2,806 in 1877 and $2,311 in 1876, free labour having in some cases taken the place of that of convicts.

Assets.

5. The balance of the Colony's assets over its liabilities on the 31st December 1878 amounted to $39,137 78, of which the arrears of rental due by the coal company, $20,628 82, may perhaps be regarded as doubtful of recovery, reducing the reliable balance to $18,508 96.

Local Revenues.

6. The only "local revenue" is one derived from an assessment, at the rate of 10 per centum on the monthly rent of their houses, which the residents in Beach Street, Victoria, levy among themselves to defray the cost of lighting the street. About $216 are raised annually in this way. There is no municipality in Labuan.

Public Debt, Military Protection.

7. Labuan has no public debt, nor is any military expenditure, Colonial or Imperial, incurred on its behalf. Its protection is entrusted to an armed native police force with two European officers, the roll of officers and men numbering 65. The men are armed with Snider rifles, which are much too heavy for them, and should be exchanged for carbines. The quality of the men has never yet been tested, but they would probably be fairly efficient against natives; as a civil police they perform their duties satisfactorily. The cost of the maintenance of the force during 1878 was—

	$	cts.
Salaries - - - - -	9,271	29
Clothing, ammunition, and contingent expenses -	361	64
Total - - -	9,632	93

The Colony is rarely visited by Her Majesty's ships of war.

Public Works.

8. The principal public work commenced in 1878 was a new wing to the public offices. A plank building raised on brick arches, and of a rather superior character to the previous structure. The local contractors having proved exorbitant in their demands, Chinese carpenters have been engaged in Singapore, and the work is being performed under the superintendence of the Government chief carpenter, a Chinaman. The estimated cost of the building is about $2,430.

Three iron beacon buoys were obtained from England, at a cost of $1,044, to replace the more exposed of the harbour beacons, previously constructed of Nibong palms, lashed together and liable to be continually washed away during squalls. A handsome flagstaff was also erected during the year by convict labour, under the instructions of the Harbour Master, Lieutenant Hamilton, R.N., retired, whose naval training has proved of much service to the little Colony.

Legislation.

9. An Ordinance (No. 1 of 1878) was passed at the commencement of the year, with the object of preventing the construction of "attap" houses in the vicinity of brick houses in the town of Victoria. Attap is a thatch used for walls and roofs, made of the leaves of the nipa, a pandanaceous tree, and when dry is very easily ignited, and the necessity for legislation in this direction was made evident soon after the passing of the Ordinance by the occurrence of a fire in Beach Street, in April, which totally destroyed 27 attap houses, and damaged four brick ones. Four brick houses have since been erected on the scene of the fire, and a Chinaman has been enterprising enough to establish a brick kiln to supply the material for the houses which it is hoped will ere long be constructed.

Ordinance No. 2 is an Ordinance enacted, by your direction, to amend certain errors in the Contagious Diseases Ordinance of 1877. Some 13 prostitutes in Victoria were brought under the operation of these acts from the 1st August, when their provisions were for the first time enforced. Five were Chinese women imported from Singapore, and the remainder were Malays. No case of venereal disease occurred amongst them during the year, and the necessity for this legislation at present in Labuan is, perhaps, doubtful.

Civil Establishment.

10. The payments under this head in 1878 amounted to $23,714 against $25,738 in 1877, and 26,270 in 1876. Governor Ussher was absent on sick leave throughout the year, the Administration of the Government being carried on by the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Roach, the Surveyor-General and Superintendent of convicts, was compelled to return to Europe, for the benefit

of his health, early in February. No officer was appointed to act in his place, and the greater portion of his half salary, $1,200 per annum, was thus saved. Mr. Roach has since been appointed to another Colony, and you have consented to leave the appointment unfilled for the present, by which arrangement the finances of the Colony are relieved of the payment of $2,400 per annum. The appointment of gaoler was not filled up during the year, the Chief Constable, Mr. Boyd, taking the acting appointment. On the 20th April an apothecary was appointed from England, but he resigned at the end of the year, being dissatisfied with his position, of which he had formed an erroneous opinion. Sheik Rejab, the Malay writer and interpreter of the General Court, resigned on the 1st October. The appointment has not yet been filled up.

Pensions.

11. The pensions paid by the Colony are at the rate of $2,213 a year. Mr. Cody, a former treasurer, having been added to the list during 1878, with a pension of $312 per annum.

Population.

12. No census has been taken since that of 1871, which gave the number of inhabitants as 4,898, 3,027 males and 1,871 females. It is probable that the population has not much increased since the date of the last census. Labuan when first settled was an uninhabited Island, and the population at present consists of Chinese traders and shopkeepers and the coolies depending on them, a few Kling shopkeepers, mostly from Carical, French India, the police and others in the pay of the Government, the employés of the coal company, Chinese, Malay, and a few Europeans, Malay fishermen and slaves from Brunei, Kadayans, an agricultural Malay people, who some years ago fled from oppression in Borneo in considerable numbers, but many of whom have now returned, and Tutong people, who similarly have taken refuge in Labuan. There is no immigration of Chinese, that is, Chinese do not come here in search of work, but only when engaged in Singapore for a term. The area of the Colony is given at 30·23 square miles.

Education.

13. There are three schools in Labuan, two being private Chinese schools and one a free national school.

The free school receives a Government grant of only sixty dollars per annum, the requisite balance being made up by the subscriptions of the community. The progress made at this school, in which English and Malay reading and writing and arithmetic are taught, during 1878 was not satisfactory. At the commencement of the year the master was absent on leave, and towards its close he resigned his appointment, and only retains it until a successor shall be appointed. The advantages of education

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are not appreciated by the Malays, of whose children the pupils are mostly composed, and the school requires constant supervision and the services of a master who would take an interest in his work. The school house is badly situated, and the pay of the master inadequate, and there is urgent need for an increase of the small Government grant. The average monthly regular attendance was 20, and the greatest number on the roll at any time was 41. But few Chinese attend the school, as the acquisition of their mother tongue would appear to demand their exclusive attention. The two Chinese schools afford education to some 18 young boys, who are compelled by their parents to attend regularly. The hours are from 6 to 8 a.m., from 8.30 to 11 a.m., and from 12 o'clock to 4 p.m., so that no time is left at their disposal for acquiring a knowledge of English or Malay at the free school. The Chinese masters receive $1 10 per mensem from each pupil, and are provided with board and lodging. No charge whatever is made at the free school.

Trade.

14. The returns of imports and exports show a still further slight increase in value, the imports amounting to $756,107 or 157,522*l.*, and the exports to $751,765 or 156,617*l.* The corresponding figures in 1877 were imports 152,454*l.*, and exports 151,207*l.*

The imports consist of cotton goods, rice, salt, opium, tobacco (Chinese, Javanese, and Palembang), ironware, arms, and ammunition, &c., principally from Singapore, and partly from Hong Kong, which are imported to be exported to the coast of Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, and of sago (raw and flour), birds' nests, beeswax, camphor, gutta-percha, and india-rubber, seed pearls, rattans, tortoise shell from North Borneo and Palawan, and of pearls, mother-o'-pearl shell, sharks' fins, tortoise shell, and trepang from the Sulu Islands, which are imported for exportation principally to Singapore, and partly to Hong Kong. The only productions of the Island which are exported are a little timber, a little coal, and a little salt fish and *belachan*. The most important export, and the one which gives employment to the greatest number of persons in the Colony, is that of sago flour, most of which is prepared from the imported raw sago at Chinese factories in Labuan. In 1878, 56,557 piculs of sago flour, valued at $213,849, were exported, of which 31,466 piculs, valued at $117,470 were manufactured in the Colony. In 1877 a total of 64,410 piculs, of the value of $203,036, were exported, of which 43,154 piculs, of the value of $135,376, were manufactured in the Colony. The decrease in the quantity exported in 1878 was due to the damage done to large plantations of the sago palm in Borneo by jungle fires, which prevailed during the prolonged drought which extended over the first half of the year. Owing to the low rate of exchange, and to other causes, sago flour reached a higher price at Singapore than it had ever previously commanded. From what has been said above it will be seen that

the trade of Labuan is derived from the Northern portion of Borneo, say from Kidorong Point to Sandakan Harbour, and the Sulu Archipelago. I take the following figures, which agree fairly well with those of the Colonial registrar of imports and exports, from my commercial report recently forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Total value of imports into Labuan from North Borneo and Palawan in 1876, $225,005; in 1877, $260,614; in 1878, $314,936.

Total value of exports from the Port of Brunei to Singapore, in 1876, $124,838; in 1877, $131,252; and in 1878, $172,675.

Total value of imports into Labuan from the Sulu Islands; in 1876, $19,012; in 1877, $21,225; and in 1878, 22,289.

The annual value of the exports from that portion of Borneo which is not subject to the Dutch, nearly all of which finds its way to the British Colonies of Labuan, Singapore, and Hong Kong, I estimate roughly at 300,000*l.*, viz.:—

	£
Port of Brunei to Singapore - -	36,000
North Borneo to Labuan - -	66,000
Sarawak to Singapore - - -	198,000
Total - - -	300,000

During the continued failure to develop its coal resources Labuan has depended for what little prosperity it has attained on this trade. Were it in the power of the Governor of Labuan and Consul-General in Borneo to exert more influence on the coast of Borneo the trade might probably be considerably increased. North Borneo being well provided with harbours, its possession by a foreign European Government would almost necessarily cut off the trade of Labuan at its source. The Spanish Government have now a firm hold on the Island of Sulu, the principal port of which has, it is said, been declared a free port for 10 years. It has also established so-called free ports at the Islands of Balabac and Palawan, but their establishment has not, so far, injured appreciably the trade of the Colony, as the natives apparently prefer the English port, though at a greater distance from them.

Shipping.

15. There was a slight increase in the total tonnage entered in 1878 over that entered in 1877, the figures being 9,231 tons in 1877 and 10,680 tons in 1878. Communication with Singapore is kept up by a British steamer, which makes some 17 or 18 trips in the year, and with Hong Kong by an occasional sailing vessel chartered for the purpose.

Mines.

16. Some progress had been made with the opening out of the No. 3 seam of coal in the deep pit when, at the end of June, the

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pit-head frame gave way and pumping was put a stop to. Since then pumping has not been fully resumed, and the directors appear to have made up their minds to take no steps to repair the effects of the accident. It is rumoured that the company is being reconstructed, and that a final effort will shortly be made to work the coal. Two things appear to be lacking, namely, a larger expenditure on powerful machinery to keep the pits dry at all times, and more experience on the part of the local direction. The quantity of clean coal raised at the mines during the year was 3,717 tons, against 3,740 tons in 1877. Some difficulty would appear to be experienced in selling the coal which has been raised, for, though it has been advertised for sale in the Straits' papers for some months, at $5 per ton, put on board at Labuan, no sales have resulted, coal being at a low price at Singapore.

Grants of Land.

17. No land was put up for sale during 1878. The acreage of the Colony is estimated at 19,350 acres, of which 2,028 have been sold or granted. Land is sold on leases for 999 years, with a small annual quit-rent. The greater part of the soil of Labuan is of poor quality.

Crime and Prisons.

18. There was very little crime during the year, and most of the commitments were for petty offences. The average number of prisoners confined in gaol was 65·21, inclusive of about 14 or 15 transmarine convicts, several of whom will soon be released on ticket-of-leave, and as it has been decided that no transmarine convicts are to be received henceforth, the number of prisoners will soon be reduced to between 40 and 50 per diem, the majority confined only for petty offences and easily kept in order. It is proposed, therefore, with your permission, to dispense with the expensive police guard of 10 men a day, which necessitates 20 men being reserved for the duty of guarding the gaol, and to substitute a night watchman and a few warders. The warders would take the place of the convict maudores or overseers, who now alone watch the gangs of their fellow convicts employed on public works, a change which cannot but be desirable, while at the same time the arrangement would admit of a slight reduction in the numbers of the police force while actually increasing its efficiency.

Hospitals.

19. Though the average daily number of prisoners confined during 1878 was 65 against 74·70 in 1877, yet the number of fever cases rose from 140 in 1877 to 208 in 1878, while the cases treated in the civil hospital similarly rose from 64 to 121. This increase of fever must be ascribed to the effects of the drought, to which allusion has already been made, and which prevailed during the first six months of the year. It is satisfactory to find

that of the 329 cases treated in the two hospitals only two terminated fatally, the patients being convicts. Several deaths from fever, however, occurred in the unhealthily situated town of Victoria, amongst the shopkeepers and their servants. The drought brought into prominence the question of the water supply of Victoria, a question which, should the population of the town increase, will urgently demand attention, as also will that of its sewerage. At the best of times the water supply for drinking, culinary, and bathing purposes is limited and of inferior quality, and on the occasion of a drought the townspeople are put to some straits. It will be seen that in the civil hospitals, an institution used principally by the poorer classes, 27 cases of dysentery were treated, six deaths resulting, while in the gaol hospital there were seven cases of dysentery and one death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. TREACHER,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

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No. 20.

Governor CALLAGHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
SIR, May 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for the year 1878, which has just been submitted to me by the Acting Colonial Secretary, but will not be ready for transmission until next mail.

Revenue.

2. The revenue, exclusive of the parliamentary grant, was 3,838*l.*, being a marked increase on that of the year 1877, which only amounted to 3,286*l.* This increase is in a great measure owing to the Ordinances passed last year, doubling the duties on spirits and wine imported, and to that imposing a customs duty on tobacco, except that imported into the Colony for sheep-washing purposes. I may observe in passing that the effect of these Ordinances on the revenue is still more decided in the present year,

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the estimated local revenue for 1879 being 4,487*l.* I may also observe that the parliamentary grant had for many years been fixed at 3,500*l.*, but the amount allowed for 1878 was only 2,974*l.*

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure for 1878 amounted to 6,364*l.*, that of the preceding year being 6,266*l.* This increase is owing to the expenses incurred on account of the passages from England of the new police force, which arrived here towards the end of December last. However, by the substitution of the police for the detachment of Marines, which for many years past had been stationed in the Colony, it is computed that a saving will be effected of 1,240*l.* to Imperial funds and 700*l.* to Colonial funds, making a total saving of 1,940*l.* a year. This arrangement came into operation on the 2nd of January last, when the Marines left for England, and the expenditure required to carry on the service of the Colony for the present year will, in consequence of this and other retrenchments arising from it, be reduced to 5,587*l.*

Public Debt.

4. On my arrival here in 1876, the Colonial debt amounted to 4,500*l.* However, I am happy to be able to say that at the present moment the Colony may be regarded as out of debt. This result is mainly owing to certain important retrenchments made in the establishments and to the measures of taxation referred to in the second paragraph of this report. The aid required from Parliament next year will not exceed 1,000*l.*, and there is every prospect that in 1881 the Colony will commence to be self-supporting.

Imports.

5. The value of the imports in 1878 was 36,792*l.* against 33,283*l.* in 1877. They were as usual chiefly from the United Kingdom, as will appear from the following table:—

VALUE of the ARTICLES imported during 1878.

Article.	Value of Articles imported from the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles imported from the River Plate.	Total Value of Imports.
	£	£	£
Ale, beer, and porter - - -	1,019	38	1,057
Animals: Sheep and horses - -	207	1,123	1,330
Apparel of all sorts - - -	2,317	310	2,627
Boots and shoes - - -	1,605	173	1,778
Building materials - - -	5,580	78	5,658
Butter, cheese, preserved milk, &c. -	650	87	737
Coals - - - - -	590	—	590
Cottons, linens, &c. of all kinds, not included as apparel - - -	432	108	540

Article.	Value of Articles imported from the United Kingdom.	Value of Articles imported from the River Plate.	Total Value of Imports.
	£	£	£
Earthenware, glass, and china	310	—	310
Flour, bread, oats, barley, and corn	258	4,080	4,338
Hardware, ironmongery, and cutlery	2,042	50	2,092
Machinery	1,230	—	1,230
Oilman's stores	2,132	702	2,834
Oil, not Colonial produce	250	28	278
Provisions, not otherwise enumerated	3,335	200	3,535
Perfumery	10	48	58
Ship chandlery stores	474	—	474
Skins, not Colonial produce	258	—	258
Spirits and wines of all kinds	1,324	155	1,479
Tobacco	2,557	91	2,648
Other articles not otherwise enumerated	2,741	200	2,941
Total	29,321	7,471	36,792

With the exception of a portion of ship chandlery stores, which altogether amount to only 474*l.*, all of the above articles were imported for the use of the Colonists, whereas in former years the value of the imports was to a great extent increased by the large quantity of stores, &c. which were required for the repairs of vessels calling at this port in distress.

It is to be noted, notwithstanding the large outlay in building operations made by the sheep farmers during the last 10 years, that the amount of building materials imported is still high, considering the smallness of the population.

With the exception of one or two cargoes landed on the West Falklands some years ago, when sheep farming was commenced there, Stanley has hitherto been the only port of entry for vessels coming direct from England, and the sheep farmers have been obliged to send in here at very considerable expense for their stores, &c. However, last year one of the leading farmers on the West Island chartered a vessel in England which brought out his stores direct without calling at Stanley, and also took home his wool and hides at no doubt considerably less cost than would have been incurred if, as hitherto, he had been obliged to hire the local schooners to convey his produce into Stanley, and to pay in addition the heavy freight usually charged by the Colonial merchants for its conveyance in their own vessels to England.

These expenses press very heavily, especially upon the sheep farmers in the West Island, and the margin of their profit is thereby considerably diminished. It would be a great matter if they could combine to charter a vessel on their own account to bring out the stores they require from England, and to take their produce home direct. The experiment attempted in the West Island last year is a step in the right direction, and is well worthy of imitation.

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It will be observed from the Blue Book that the amount of specie in circulation in the Colony does not exceed 2,000*l.* It is greatly to be regretted that the local merchants do not see the necessity of importing annually a sufficient amount of specie, as the sum in question is quite inadequate for the requirements of the trade of the Colony. One most undesirable result of this scarcity is that it necessitates the adoption of something in the nature of the truck system, the general practice with the employers of labour throughout the Islands being to pay the wages of their men to a large extent in goods instead of in money.

It is true that the 2,000*l.* in question does not represent the whole amount of specie in the Colony, as a good deal of hoarding takes place among the shepherds in the camp, there being no Colonial Bank in which they could deposit their savings. There can be no doubt whatever that a decided increase in the amount of specie imported is urgently required.

Exports.

6. A table showing the exports for 1878 is appended.

VALUE of ARTICLES exported to the United Kingdom during 1878.

Articles.	Value.
	£
Bones, horns, &c. - - - - - -	8
Hides: Ox, cow, calf, and horse - - - -	5,170
Junk, metal, and old iron - - - - -	106
Manufactured goods, re-exported - - - -	600
Oil: Seal and penguin - - - - - -	1,312
Sealskins - - - - - - - -	1,213
Sheepskins - - - - - - - -	2,040
Tallow - - - - - - - - -	4,874
Wool - - - - - - - - -	35,732
Total - - - -	51,055

The value of the exports in 1877 was 59,878*l.* The decrease is occasioned by the considerable reduction in the price of wool which took place last year, owing to the great commercial depression in the United Kingdom. It is gratifying, however, to observe that the quantity of wool exported shows a decided increase, the amounts exported in 1877 and 1878 being, respectively, 1,193,759 lbs. and 1,253,249 lbs. The average price received for Falkland Islands wool in 1877 was 9*d.* per lb., while last year it only averaged 7*d.* per lb. Some of the earlier shipments of wool fetched from 10½*d.* to 11½*d.* per lb.

There is also a falling off in the value of the hides exported, which in 1878 only amounted to 5,170*l.*, while in the preceding year it reached 8,100. This, I am told, is to a great extent owing to the severity of last year's winter in these islands, which greatly retarded the operations of the *gauchos* in cattle killing. There was also a fall in the price of hides in the home market.

The manufacture of penguin oil, at one time an important industry in the Falklands, continues to progress, the value of

this oil in 1878 being 1,312*l.*, against 1,200*l.* in 1877. I may, observe that it had dwindled down to 160*l.* in 1876.

The value of sealskins exported in 1876 was only 65*l.*, while in 1877 and 1878 it had been 308*l.* and 1,213*l.* respectively. This would seem to indicate a very decided revival of this industry, which for some years past had almost been abandoned by the inhabitants of these Islands.

Although the two exports just referred to are very small matters in comparison with the more important interests of larger Colonies, nevertheless, in a small community like that of the Falklands, the increased employment afforded by the improvement in such industries is a help in the present state of the Colony, which is suffering a good deal from the depressed state of the wool market.

The value of the tallow exported in 1878 was 4,874*l.*, against 3,800*l.* in 1877.

The number of sheep "boiled down" last year for tallow was, I am informed, about 14,000. Considering the very high price of meat at home, it seems a great pity that some effort is not made in these Islands to preserve meat as in the Australian Colonies. The temperateness of the climate would seem to be highly in favour of such an experiment, but the want of steam communication with the outer world, which in so many ways retards the progress of the Colony, is, I fear, likely to prevent any enterprise of this kind from being attempted.

I may observe, that the 14,000 sheep boiled down by no means represent the number that could be annually supplied for preserving purposes. The "boiling down" is only practised by the Falkland Islands Company, they alone having the extensive machinery and apparatus necessary for the purpose. A large number of sheep are, I am informed, absolutely wasted every year on the farms throughout the Islands.

I have received the following communication from a practical sheep farmer on the subject which may prove of interest:—

"I think it would be a great boon to sheep farmers here, if they could with any profit to themselves get rid of their aged and surplus stock. The actual profit of boiling down for tallow is so small after all expenses are paid, that it will not enable the farmer to go to the expense of drawing out and keeping separate the old breeding ewes, which if allowed to run with the breeding flocks bring forth lambs, which they are unable from old age properly to rear. In consequence of which, their lambs are weak and worse than worthless, as they get scab, and linger invariably about the edges of banks and sea beaches, where it is very difficult to see them when sheep are being gathered for dipping, and when sheep are dipped and return on their ground, those weak lambs that keep hiding about in out of the way places re-introduce scab, whereby the labour and expense of dipping is partially thrown away.

"Having tried to describe how desirable it is to get rid of aged stock, I will try and explain what profit might possibly be made

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of them. After a sheep gets to be over four years old, it begins to grow more fat and the wool will be much coarser and lighter. Such is the case with every description of sheep, but more particularly with breeding ewes that are more or less broken down at that age.

"There is an annual loss of 10 per cent. among such sheep, as they are so poor and weak from constant breeding, that the least bad weather will kill them and their weak progeny.

"It is well known that old ewes, if kept apart for one season from the breeding stock, will take on fat much faster than any other description of sheep, but it is impossible to keep them apart in such an open country as this without fencing. If their fat when tried down would pay for fences it would be well and good, but I hardly think it would, the expense of boiling down, as I said before, being so great, although I am sure they might be made to pay a great deal better, if the meat from the hind quarters could be preserved in tins.

"The hind quarters of a sheep yield in boiling down little or no tallow, therefore, the heaviest part of the animal, which is now in a manner thrown away, might be, I think, profitably made use of as an article of food. A boiling down and meat preserving establishment worked together, so that the separate portions of the animal might be made use of in the most profitable manner, would, I think, pay all concerned."

Shipping.

7. The merchant vessels that called here in 1878 were 34, against 31 in the previous year. The vessels were, however, of a smaller class, the tonnage for 1877 and 1878 being 11,413 and 7,287 respectively.

The arrivals in 1878 were as follows :—

Foreign going Ships entered during 1878.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.
Great Britain - - - -	22	5,468	216
Banda Oriental - - - -	1	82	9
Chili - - - - -	2	161	17
Denmark - - - -	1	177	7
France - - - - -	2	88	38
Germany - - - -	2	643	21
Italy - - - - -	1	116	13
United States - - - -	3	547	68
Total - - -	34	7,287	389

In 1878 there was greater activity in the local coasting trade, and the number of schooners and cutters engaged in it amounted to 19.

The German brig "Thetis" put back to Stanley and landed the crew of the British barque "Juliet," of Liverpool, which was wrecked on Cape St. John, Staten Island, on 1st August last.

During the year only one ship called for repairs. Formerly a good deal of money was made in Stanley for the repairs of ships,

but the great improvement effected by recent legislation in the class of foreign going British ships, has happily tended to diminish the number of casualties at sea. The number of vessels calling here that have been disabled on their voyage round the Horn, has consequently been considerably diminished.

Sheep Farming.

8. The returns for 1877 and 1878 of the number of sheep are 283,385 and 312,300 respectively. It is probable that the increase would have been much greater were it not for the almost unexampled severity of the winter.

Now that the number of sheep in the Falklands has reached such a large figure, it may be of interest to refer to the earlier struggles which the sheep farmers had to undego in former years, at the beginning of their enterprise. The following communication which I have received from Mr. G. M. Dean, the most extensive sheep farmer in the West Falklands, contains some very interesting information on the subject:—

"Having recently returned from a trip round the Islands, perhaps the following remarks respecting the progress of sheep farming in the Colony may prove interesting. It is gratifying to be able to state that the flocks of sheep are decidedly on the increase everywhere, despite the great drawbacks resulting from the general inclemency of the climate and from the scantiness of the pasture occasioned by the unusually severe winter of last year.

"As one greatly interested in sheep farming, I am happy to be able to state that there is a marked diminution in the amount of scab among the flocks throughout the Islands. This result has been chiefly brought from the fact that farmers are now alive to the necessity that exists for their taking steps to check the disease at its outbreak by 'spotting,' and by employing the necessary dips, instead of allowing it to remain unchecked for some time, before taking active measures to prevent its spead. It is unlikely that scab will increase to any great extent among the flocks in the Colony whilst the present attention is given to its eradication by the sheep farmers generally.

"I beg to be allowed to state that I think I am expressing the feelings of the majority of the farmers throughout the Islands, in saying that they are well satisfied that the Secretary of State has found it undesirable for the present to introduce a Scab Ordinance for this Colony.

"Although sheep were introduced in these Islands about 1852, little attention was paid to breeding them for their fleeces until within the last twelve years. Probably this arose from the country for many years not being considered as adapted to the breeding and depasturing of flocks, and from the fact that the small quantity of wool raised was so coarse and inferior in quality, that it was not of sufficient value to attract the notice of purchasers in England.

"I think I am not far wrong in stating that it was about the year 1867 when sheep farming operations were commenced in earnest, and they have gradually progressed since, although those

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engaged in them have had to undergo many difficulties. All the farmers in the West Falklands had at enormous expense and risk, to stock their runs with sheep brought down from the River Plate, which were not at all adapted to the climate, thereby occasioning great loss by death. There are on record instances in which the importer lost as many as from 30 to 50 per cent.

"One insurmountable obstacle to the speedy success of sheep farming is the heavy expense incurred by every farmer for the conveyance of his produce, stores, &c. to and from Stanley; without at all taking into consideration the great drawback arising from the few opportunities we have of ascertaining the state of the home market.

"News was lately received from England that it is necessary for farmers to take steps to change the class of wool at present grown here, as the wool shipped last year was almost unmarketable in consequence of its coarse staple, and the merino breed of ram is recommended to be introduced. Not having heard of this sooner it will be impossible to effect this change next year, as the class of rams required will have to be imported from the River Plate and elsewhere, and this at a very great expense; whereas had we the advantage of steam communication with the outer world, this delay might have been prevented.

"On the whole when the depression of trade in the home market, which I sincerely hope is only temporary, shall have passed away, I trust that good times will be in store for the sheep farmers in this Colony. It will of course be necessary for them, in order to effect this, to do their best to render the wool suitable for the requirements of the English market, by importing rams of such breeds as may be found to be best adapted to the purpose."

Undoubtedly the farmers deserve the greatest credit for their patience and perseverance in the very uphill task which they had to undergo for so many years in introducing sheep farming in the Falklands where the inclemency of the climate alone must have formed a very formidable obstacle to their success. There is every reason to hope that the worst of their troubles is over, and that before long their efforts may be crowned with success.

I am happy to be able to state that the ravages of scab in the flocks throughout the Islands were considerably less than in the previous year. This I should suppose is in a great measure owing to the fact that the process of dipping has become more general and has been more carefully performed.

The two dips most in use are "the tobacco dip" and "the lime and sulphur dip." I am unable to throw any light on the controversy which exists in the Colony as to the merits of these rival dips; however, I have received a communication from Mr. Cameron, a practical sheep farmer, who reports very strongly in favour of the lime and sulphur dip. One great thing in its favour is its cheapness compared with the tobacco dip.

Mr. Cameron says,—

"The lime and sulphur dip has in every way admirably answered the purpose for which I have used it, *i.e.*, the cure of scab. Complaints have, I hear, been made by some who used it last year,

that it made the wool light. My experience of it does not lead me to think so, if the sheep are dipped with it at a proper time. All dipping should, if possible, be over about the end of March, which will enable the sheep to get in good condition ere the bad weather may usually be expected.

"If sheep are not in good condition, and a bad winter such as we had here last year set in, it will very much retard the growth of wool, as everyone knows that sheep in poor condition, with whatever material they may have been dipped, will not grow wool.

"In addition to the bad winter of last year, there was a very backward spring, and the new grass did not come until the month of December, about the middle of which month most people begin to shear. If sheep have been poor in winter, they cannot begin to improve in condition until the new feed comes in spring, and will not consequently grow wool.

"I on that account delayed beginning to shear for a fortnight after my usual time this year. Could I have waited for a month, I would have done so, as the grass was at least a month later than usual, and one week of good weather and good pasture will grow more wool than is grown in a month of bad weather ere the grass comes.

"I am still of opinion that lime and sulphur will not retard the growth of the wool, or in any manner injure it, if the sheep are dipped at a proper time, as soon after shearing as possible, so that they may improve in condition ere the bad weather set in. Otherwise, if in poor condition, the sediment which is left on the skin after dipping will stick there and partially stop the growth of the wool.

"If sheep improve in condition it enables the skin to throw off the sediment, which will take all the scurf which usually adheres to the skin along with it, leaving the skin of a clean, bright, healthy pink colour. Of course the greatest care must be taken in the proper preparation of the mixture. One of its good properties is, that once the sheep is dry after being dipped, rain will not wash off the thin film-like sediment which it leaves on the skin, until it rises naturally, which is not the case with tobacco, the good effects of which a day's rain will neutralise."

In reference to this subject, I may observe that your decision not to introduce a "Scab Ordinance" has given great satisfaction to the majority of the sheep farmers throughout the Islands.

Legislation.

9. The following Ordinances were passed in 1878. Detailed explanations regarding them have been given in former Despatches, and it will only be necessary to indicate them in this report.

Ordinance No. 1. "An Ordinance to make further provision "regarding the Harbour Regulations of the Port of Stanley."

Ordinance No. 2. "Tobacco Duties Ordinance."

Ordinance No. 3. "Spirit Duties Amendment Ordinance."

Ordinance No. 4. "An Ordinance to make further provision for "carrying out the Customs' Duties Ordinances."

Ordinance No. 5. "Tobacco License Ordinance."

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Civil Establishments.

10. The only alterations in the civil establishments were as follows: Mr. Travis, the Colonial Treasurer, left the Colony on the 15th May, and the various duties discharged by him have since been performed by Mr. Collins, who resigned the office of schoolmaster pending the appointment of a new schoolmaster. Mr. S. R. Beattie held the office of acting schoolmaster.

Works and Buildings.

11. No public works of importance were proceeded with during the year.

Education.

12. I regret to say that I have been informed by the acting schoolmaster, that the attendance of the children at the schools was not up to the average of former years. There is, however, every reason to believe that on the appointment of a duly qualified teacher, a marked improvement will take place in this respect.

Climate.

13. I regret that I have been unable to obtain the usual meteorological summary for 1878, as it would have supplied interesting details regarding the winter of last year, which was the most severe season experienced in the Colony during the past 30 years. It appears from a diary which Mr. Herbert Mansel, of Stanley, has kindly allowed me to see that snow actually fell on 58 days during the year. In fact, from about the end of May until the end of August, the ground was almost always covered with snow, on many days to the depth of several feet. With the exception of the month of January snow fell in every month in the year.

I am sorry to say that there was a great loss of horses and cattle in the camp during the winter. The spring, moreover, was unusually late, which affected the lambing to a certain extent, and the camp remained in a very wet state until nearly the close of the year.

It does not appear that the thermometer at any time during the winter, registered any very exceptionally low temperature, and the snow was not accompanied with any very intense frost.

Captain Dixon, of the schooner "Black Hawk," reported having seen on his voyage down here from Monte Video a large iceberg in latitude 43° 30′ south, longitude 58° 01′ west, on the 15th December last, just about midsummer in these latitudes. I left Monte Video in H.M.S. "Alert," Captain Sir George Nares, on the 14th December, and on the voyage down here, an iceberg, doubtless the same, was sighted, as far as I remember, about five or six days later, and more to the northward than when seen by Captain Dixon. The appearance of an iceberg in these seas so far to the northward is, I understand, a very unusual circumstance.

General.

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14. The most important local event of the year was the decision of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw, with a view to retrenchment, the detachment of Royal Marines which for a long time had formed the garrison of Stanley. I have already referred to the considerable saving to Imperial and Colonial funds resulting from this measure, and now, after the experience of four months, I am happy to be able to state there is every prospect that the new police force will turn out satisfactorily, and that the change effected will in no way prejudice the preservation of law and order in the Colony.

The action of this Government was most beneficially exerted under the authority of the local Ordinance No. 2 of 1875, entitled "An Ordinance relating to unseaworthy vessels, and to provide "for the surveys of vessels in certain cases," in detaining for further repairs a large vessel of about 2,000 tons, with a crew of 30 men, which put in here in a disabled state, having been unable to proceed on her voyage round Cape Horn to Callao. When the condition of the ship was examined in accordance with the order of the Government (the necessity for which was at first disputed by the master), it appeared beyond all doubt that if she had left before undergoing the required repairs, she would almost inevitably have gone down with all hands on board. Evidence to this effect was given at an inquiry held before the ship's departure by several witnesses, who had, while the repairs were being executed, ample opportunity for observing her condition.

I am happy to be able to state that the question of the mail contract, which had been a subject of controversy between the Government and the Falkland Islands Company, was settled, and that a new contract was entered into with the Company in November last, by which the rights of the public regarding the conveyance of cargo in the mail schooner were preserved. It is right to say that the mail contract, which has been held by the Company for some years, has been on the whole very efficiently performed by them.

The following report, which I have received from Mr. Bailey the late Surveyor-General, refers to a considerable slip which took place in the peat bog on the hill at the back of the Settlement in November last, and which was fortunately not attended with any serious consequences:—

"I regret to have to report to you the circumstances attending an accident which happened early on the morning of the 30th November last.

"Just after midnight on Friday, the 29th November, one of the inhabitants was awakened by the continued barking of his dog, and thinking that a cow had strayed into his garden, he went outside, when to his alarm he found that his house was surrounded by a black moving mass of peat several feet in height, and travelling down the hill, which is about 150 feet in height, at the rate of about four to five miles an hour. It was not until daylight that the extent of the disaster was manifested.

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"The sufferers by the calamity were quite shut off from communication with the rest of the Settlement until they had cut a way for themselves through the heap of liquid peat which everywhere surrounded their dwellings. Fortunately no lives were lost.

"Immediately when the report reached me, I proceeded to the scene of the disaster, and found the town in a worse state than it had been represented, all communication between the east and west end of Stanley being cut off except by boats. At this time there was no perceptible movement in the mass of peat which covered the ground in confused heaps, except in Philomel Street and in the drain on the east side, where I perceived the liquid peat moving down at a very slow rate. To get rid of this as quickly as possible, I found it advisable to turn all the water that could be dammed up, and sluice the peat whilst in a liquid state, and by this means I eventually cleared Philomel Street.

"On following up the course which the slip had taken, the hill presented a curious appearance. From the peat bank down to the brow of the hill, a distance of about 250 yards, the surface peat lay in confused heaps direct from the opening in the bog. The moving power (whether water or liquid peat it is impossible to say) travelled over the ground faster than the heavier bodies, which were left standing three to four feet above the level of the ground.

"Proceeding to the top of the bog, I found a depression extending over an area of from 9 to 10 acres, the edges of which were cracking and filling up with water and threatening another accident. I at once saw the necessity of calling upon the inhabitants to assist me in cutting a trench at the back of the hill so as to drain off this accumulation of water, which seemed likely to float the loose peat left in the depression down into the Settlement. I am glad to say that this call was heartily responded to by every man in the Settlement, the gentlemen finding substitutes to take their place. All worked for eight days in the cold and rain, but, nevertheless, their efforts were unsuccessful in carrying the trench through the bank into the bottom of the slip, owing to the soft peat welling up from the bottom and filling the trench again. Seeing that their exertions were of little avail in the present state of the bog, I did not press the settlers to continue the work that was so disheartening in its results, and as I now felt satisfied from the great quantity of water that had been drained off, and the cuttings being at a level that would prevent any further accumulation of water in the slip, and as there was no immediate danger of another accident taking place, the work was stopped."

The Colonial Chaplain, Mr. Brandon, has kindly favoured me with the following report regarding the Stanley Total Abstinence Society, and I am glad to observe by it that the temperance movement continues to make progress in the Colony. This, I think, is a great deal owing to the zeal and energy with which Mr. Brandon has devoted himself to the movement:—

"First, the Adult Society:—

"The Society continues to keep up the number of its members, and is gradually extending its membership among the more steady and respectable Colonists of the artisan and working classes. Thus their influence instead of being lost and rendered futile by isolation, is combined into a steady, healthy, and increasing influence on behalf of temperance. This section of the Society includes both males and females. The number on the roll is 53.

"Second, the children's or Band of Hope Society.

"This is the most promising, as well as the most hopeful, branch of the Society, and is rapidly extending among the younger members of the community, a branch society having been formed at Darwin during this year. In fact it includes most of the children in Stanley and Darwin, also children in the camp.

"Each child pays a small subscription per annum. The sum thus collected, increased by extra help, is spent on healthy illustrated temperance literature suitable for children, and will with God's blessing have a permanent influence for good on their future lives. The number on the roll is 136."

Although some depression exists in the trade of Stanley, a good deal owing to the decrease in the number of vessels calling for repairs, nevertheless prosperity is becoming more diffused throughout the Islands, and the Colony is decidedly, though slowly, progressing. A case has come to my knowledge of a sheep farmer, a lessee of the Government, who began farming in 1868 with scarcely any money, and who died last year worth 7,000*l*. This farmer resided on his farm and was entirely dependent upon it, and during the period in question respectably maintained a very large family, which he has left in comfortable circumstances. It is worthy of note that he was generally considered to have had a thoroughly practical knowledge of the management of sheep, and he undoubtedly set a very good example to his brother sheep farmers as to the proper way of treating them. His remarkable success is certainly not without its significance.

However, as I have observed in former reports, much progress cannot be looked for in the Falklands until steam communication is introduced here. In reference to this subject the following extract from a letter written by Mr. Cobb, the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company, to his directors, which he has kindly placed at my disposal, will be of interest:—

"Provided the rates of freight can be arranged low enough the whole of the carrying trade, with one exception, could be thrown into the hands of the Pacific Company. The exception would of course be heavy goods in bulk, such as coals and bricks, and these could be sent once a year in a sailing vessel. Whether this should be an outward charter only, or whether the vessel on the round could carry hides and tallow, if they are not suitable for the steamers, would be a matter for future consideration. Flour at the rate of 3,000 bags per annum could be obtained from Chili, of a better quality than that we have to use at pre-

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sent, and there is a constant though small demand for maize. There must be 1,500 tons weight and measurement cargo annually arriving here from England.

"Homeward there should be some 3,000 bales wool, each measuring three-quarters of a ton, and fully 100 tons measurement of sheepskins.

"For a monthly mail I should think the Government might be relied on for . . . at least 1,000*l.* a year.

"Passengers' fares, including those from Monte Video, which are now considerable, are difficult to estimate; but on looking through the 'Black Hawk's' returns, I should put them at 2,500*l.* to 3,000*l.*; you can check this by looking through the voyage returns sent each mail. It is not improbable that a fair traffic might arise between here and the River Plate; many people would run down during the unhealthy season for the shooting, and to recruit their health, who fear the voyage in so small a vessel as the 'Black Hawk.'

"We have generally paid 80*s.* freight on flour from Chili; taking a uniform charge of 50*s.*, which might on some goods be exceeded, on others reduced, I arrive at the following probable earnings:—

	Tons.	£
Outward - - -	1,500	
Homeward:		
Wool - -	2,250	
Sheepskins - -	100	
	2,350	
Flour and maize - -	150	
	4,000 at 50*s.*	10,000
Mail subsidy - - - - -		1,000
Passengers - - - - -		2,500
Per annum -		£13,500

"Of course an understanding would have to be arrived with all the shippers, so that some guarantee might be given to the Company, an undertaking, for instance, that the yearly tonnage shall not be less than a stated quantity.

"The steamers could not come into the inner harbour, and it would be necessary to station a depôt hulk in Port William, either in a line with the Narrows, or between Sparrow Cove and Yorke Bay . . . . Here cargo could be stowed for shipment by the next steamer, and goods from England received to be distributed to the consignees, a fixed tonnage rate being charged for the accommodation.

"If desired the steamers could coal from the hulk. A powerful steam launch or small steamer would be necessary to ensure quick communication between the town and the steamer. The hulk might be permanently moored outside, or might be towed in and out for the purpose of loading and discharging. The benefit to the store from steam communication would be very great. In

the case of produce it must be borne in mind that any substantial advance on present rates would prevent shippers from abandoning the present mode of carriage, and the west farmers would probably soon charter their own vessel. The interest saved would be trifling in comparison with the extra freight. Mr. Dean has written to his father with reference to this project, and I believe that he is as alive as I am to the importance of it."

I trust that the facts contained in this statement may attract public attention to the desirability of establishing steam communication with these Islands, which I regard as of vital importance to the prosperity of the Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) T. F. CALLAGHAN,
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 21.

Governor Sir H. F. B. MAXSE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Heligoland, August 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour herewith to enclose the Blue Book for 1878.

2. I have had the honour on former occasions to point out that whilst the revenue of the Island is dependent upon a good bathing season the expenditure remains on an average the same, being but little capable of reduction, owing to the necessity of the constant repairs on Sandy Island, the due maintenance of sea bulwarks, and the efficient state of streets, promenades, and other matters conducive to the necessities of the bathing visitors.

3. We have had, unfortunately, owing to the general commercial depression, but a comparatively moderate number of visitors during the last few years, and the Island revenue has been naturally influenced by the above cause.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) FITZ MAXSE.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

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